



# Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

March 2024

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## Program connects movements and literacy

**Laura Slocum**, owner of KidSpeak, a speech language pathology clinic in Oberlin, sponsored a movement and literacy activity along with dance instructor **Amy Larson**. According to Slocum, it's a great way to teach language and literacy concepts to kids by getting their bodies moving. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU928>.

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## Ohio AI toolkit for schools explores ethics, tools

Ohio leaders introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI) toolkit for educators, students and parents that offers resources, including concepts, tools and ethics. Lt. Gov. **Jon Husted** stressed the importance of preparing students for an AI-equipped world while addressing concerns about privacy and ethics. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU929>.

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## College credit program promotes diversity among EMTs

Ohio's Sinclair Community College is collaborating with **Trotwood-Madison City** Schools to diversify emergency medical technician (EMT) ranks through a program using Sinclair's College Credit Plus program. The initiative aims to certify Black students as EMTs, addressing the lack of diversity in the field. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU930>.

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## Ohio campus to train future manufacturing workers

**Butler Tech** and Miami University are collaborating with Butler County, the city of Hamilton and local private companies to transform the Vora Technology Park in Hamilton into an \$11.2 million educational campus dedicated to preparing students for manufacturing jobs. Set to open by late summer 2025, the program will offer students a range of educational and certification opportunities. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU931>.

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## Customizing Smithsonian space observation projects

Teachers and students can request information from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and its MicroObservatory Robotic Telescope Network, which offers inquiry-focused, participatory astrophysics experiences. Recently, rural and tribal South Dakota middle schoolers met virtually with YouthAstroNet scientists to learn and ask questions. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU932>.

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## How to transform outdoor spaces for exploration, learning

Prekindergartners benefit from outdoor play areas designed to foster creativity and self-guided learning, according to **Julie Hunter**, lead teacher at the National Child Research Center preschool. Educators can enhance students' cognitive, social and emotional development by transforming open spaces into varied learning activities. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU933>.

## Student achievement in-depth

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

### Information on value of microcredentials lacking in high school

Parents expect educators to share information about the best credentialing programs for non-college bound students, but high school educators say they typically aren't well-equipped to offer such details, and most students actually look to their parents for options, according to new surveys from American Student Assistance and Jobs for the Future (JFF). Two-thirds of 1,100 surveyed students who aren't getting a microcredential say that having such information would have made them more likely to pursue one.

Of the students who were pursuing a nondegree pathway, 67% of female respondents and 63% of male respondents said they went to their parents for guidance on which program to pursue. In contrast, 13% of female students and 20% of male students went to a high school counselor or mentor.

At the same time, the majority of parents said educators were their most trusted source to give their children support and guidance about postsecondary education, though only 26% of parents believed their children were “very prepared” to transition from high school to college and a career.

Why aren't teachers and counselors sharing microcredential information with parents? According to **Susan Acevedo-Moyer**, co-author of the report and director of JFF's Multiple Pathways Initiative, teachers and counselors are aware of nondegree pathways. However, they are uncertain whether employers are actually going to hire from these particular types of pathways.

“We don't have a ton of outcome data. We don't know the efficacy,” Acevedo-Moyer said. “So, again, that can make educators hesitant, because they want to make sure they're setting students on the right path.”

**Shalin Jyotishi**, senior adviser on education, labor and the future of work for New America, a Washington D.C. think tank, said that with limited data about nondegree pathways, one of the best ways to assess their quality is “stackability,” or students' ability to apply the credential toward a degree — which typically means higher earnings — in the future.

“At their best, nondegree pathways will be affordable and faster education programs that lead to immediate employment, that leads to a job with at least a local living wage, that also sets up the recipient of that credential for lifelong learning leading up to a degree and beyond,” Jyotishi said.

For a link to this report and a companion survey, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU934>.

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