



Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

April 2023

Students in Texas high school offer doggy day care for staff

Students enrolled in a Texas high school's veterinarian medical program are operating a "doggy day care" for staff members as part of the curriculum. By next month, the program is expected to be open to the community. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU852>.

ChatGPT called creative disruptor of education

The arrival of artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT and GPT-4, could be "the greatest creative disruptor to education and instruction in a generation," said **Sarah Eaton**, an associate professor of education at the University of Calgary. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU853>.

STEM classrooms can be culturally relevant

Teachers can make their science classrooms more culturally responsive by getting to know their students, writes **Anjali Joshi**, a STEM educator and author in Ontario. Joshi offers five suggestions to achieve a culturally relevant STEM classroom. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU854>.

100-point grading scale called flawed, gamed against student

The 100-point grading system in its current permutation is a "badly lopsided scale that is heavily gamed against the student," say researchers **James Carifio** and **Theodore Carey** at the University of Massachusetts–Lowell. Roughly 60% of the grading scale is dedicated to failing marks, and the implications of a very low grade or a zero are catastrophic. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU855>.

Live More Screen Less strives for digital balance

Minnesota nonprofit Live More Screen Less is working with public schools to help youths develop a healthy balance in their digital lives. The organization is pursuing funding to expand the program, which it says will have mental health and academic benefits for students throughout the state. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU856>.

Addressing middle-schoolers' reading gaps

Teacher collaboration and creativity can help middle-schoolers build their reading skills and address foundational reading gaps that are holding students back, writes **Linda Brock**, an education consultant who is a veteran educator. Brock details a summer school program that addressed the needs of middle-schoolers. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU857>.

Student achievement in-depth

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

Autism prevalence in the United States on the rise again

Data from the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report showed that the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder among 8-year-olds in the United States rose to approximately 1 in 36 children in 2020, higher than previous estimates from the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. This figure represents a nearly 20% increase over the agency's 2018 estimate and continues a decades-long trend that likely reflects increased awareness and identification rather than an actual rise, the researchers say.

The latest estimate comes from compiled data from health and special education records for 226,339 children in 11 states.

For the first time in years of CDC data collection, non-white children are identified as having autism at higher rates than white children.

The prevalence of autism among 4-year-olds also has increased, according to a companion report. It went from 1 in 59 in 2018 to 1 in 47 in 2020 — a 26% bump, according to ADDM data for 227,526 children across the same 11 states. The report showed that autism diagnosis increased among Black, Hispanic, and Asian or Pacific Islander children, while 4-year-olds were less likely to be evaluated for or identified in the early months of the pandemic compared to prepandemic months.

Both new prevalence estimates likely reflect increased identification of children who have always shown signs of autism but did not access care until they were older, says **Katharine Zuckerman**, associate professor of pediatrics at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, who was not involved in the research. But disparities persist in who has access to high-quality, timely and evidence-based care, she adds. "Just identifying kids of color and low-income kids isn't helpful if we're not giving them high-quality services."

For more on this report and a link to the CDC data, please visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU858>.

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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>.