



Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

July 2022

Teen summer employment on the rise

Some economists predict this could be a strong summer for employment among teens. In 2021, a Pew Research Center analysis of data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found teen summer employment was at 36.6% up from 30.8% the year before. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU788>.

Middle school students design apps in Apple challenge

Wisconsin eighth-graders participated in an app development course through Apple's App Design Challenge. Students selected an app concept and created a prototype during the four-week program. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU789>.

Student designs VR game to address Alzheimer's

Maya Szakaly spent her senior year at Harmony School in Indiana creating a virtual reality (VR) game with scientifically based flashing lights that might help disintegrate plaque on Alzheimer's disease patients' brains. Szakaly used photogrammetry to make a virtual 3D image and tapped different software to add interactive animals. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU790>.

Therapy dogs reduce kids' stress levels in study

School-age children who spent time with a therapy dog twice a week subsequently had lower levels of salivary cortisol than children who participated in guided relaxation sessions and those who did neither, according to a study in PLOS One. The study involved children with and without special educational needs, and both appeared to benefit from time with a therapy dog, researchers reported. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU791>.

Would later school times improve student outcomes?

Schools should start later in the day to give teenagers more time for the sleep they need, says author and mother **Lisa Lewis**. In this interview, Lewis says research shows that children and teens need 9.25 hours of sleep and shares research showing the benefits optimal sleep can have on achievement and mental health. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU792>.

CTE students build space for students with disabilities

Career and technical education (CTE) students at the Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction in New York City partnered with Ikea to build a simulated apartment, allowing them to use their design and architecture skills. The space will be used by students with disabilities at an area school to practice basic household skills. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU793>.

Student achievement in-depth

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

Research examines the impact of remote learning

As a third COVID-19 pandemic school year closes, new research offers a clear accounting of the pandemic's academic toll and a reason to hope that schools can help.

Research has found that students learned less in remote environments during the start of the pandemic than in person. There were discrepancies in student learning based on location and economic considerations. Graduation rates, however, were not heavily affected.

Thomas Kane of the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University claims that much of the missed learning was likely a carryover from spring 2020, when nearly all schools were remote and remote instruction was at its worst.

Kane and his fellow researchers studied the test scores of more than 2 million elementary and middle schoolers, comparing the growth they made between fall 2017 and fall 2019 to their pandemic-era growth, from fall 2019 to fall 2021.

Students at schools with high poverty spent about five-and-a-half more weeks in remote instruction during the 2020-21 school year than those in schools of mid-or low poverty, the report says. Researchers also found a "higher incidence of remote schooling for Black and Hispanic students." Students in schools of high poverty that stayed remote for the majority of the 2020-21 school year missed the equivalent of 22 weeks of in-person math learning equalling more than half of a traditional school year (roughly 36-40 weeks). By contrast, students in similarly remote schools of low poverty missed considerably less learning: roughly 13 weeks. Kane warns that closing these gaps could take years.

Another recent study by Brookings examined the impact of the pandemic on high school graduation. For the 2019-20 school year, high school graduation rates increased slightly, **Douglas Harris** of Tulane University said. "Anybody who was on the margin of graduating at that point was going to graduate because the states officially relaxed their standards." For the 2020-21 school year, school districts largely returned to pre-pandemic standards and, as a result, the high school graduation rate dipped slightly, Harris stated.

School leaders are building programs to help students make up for at least some of the missed learning. One popular approach is high dosage tutoring. **Penny Schwinn**, Tennessee's state education commissioner, defined this as "two to three times per week for at least 30 minutes, and no more than three students in a group." Schwinn emphasized that the purpose of the tutoring efforts was not to look back over old material but to support students as they move forward through new concepts.

For links to the studies and surveys and an audio interview, please visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU794>.

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