Success

Ohio School Boards Association — Helping Kids Succeed!

Timely tips to improve student achievement   **October 2023**

How important is homework, and how much should parents help?	Parents and educators have raised concerns about homework and questioned how effective it is in enhancing students' learning for some time. There are concerns that too much homework interferes with family time and play. Research suggests these concerns may be valid. For more, go to **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU894.**
Could four-day weeks lead to more progress for students?	As school districts across the U.S. experiment with altered schedules to address chronic absenteeism and pandemic-related academic challenges, some are adopting four-day school weeks to provide students and staff additional rest and flexibility. While the long-term impact is yet to be determined, these changes aim to enhance the quality of education and overall well-being. For more, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU895.**
Students' networking and social skills are vital for jobs	Eighty-three percent of students aren't confident enough to seek career advice from adults in their lives, much less new ones, and the lack of networking and strong social skills will hamper them in the working world, according to Christensen Institute researcher **Robert Markle**. Candid conversations, practice and having students share their own expertise with adults can make networking more natural for them. For more, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU896.**
Travel informs one teacher's support of students	Connecting with students who are English-language learners can be a challenge. **Rhonda Bonnstetter**, a high-school math teacher in Worthington, Minnesota shares strategies for overcoming language barriers and explains how traveling has enabled her to visit countries and regions where her students are from, experiences she says inform her approach and helps build bonds with students. For more, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU897.**
Studies show benefits of quizzes for students	While testing is often criticized for causing stress, cognitive scientists have found higher achievement in students who take quizzes, as it helps consolidate information and form long-term memories. Low-stakes, gamified quizzes are suggested as a way to make testing more enjoyable. For more, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU898.**
Submit Student Achievement Fair programs and art	Highlight your district's outstanding programs and creative art by nominating them for the OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair. For more, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU893.**

Student achievement in-depth

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

AI-powered tools can enhance teacher professional development

Tools using artificial intelligence (AI), such as TeachFX and digital mentoring platforms, are transforming teacher professional development (PD) by providing personalized feedback and insights on classroom practices. These tools can focus on improving teaching practices and student engagement while making PD more accessible and scalable, and respecting teachers' privacy and supporting effective instruction.

For example, TeachFX records a teacher's lesson and generates a detailed feedback report on the teacher's style. It analyzes how many questions were asked, the type of questions asked, who is called on to answer and how much balance there is during the lesson between teacher and student talk.

Other AI programs provide feedback on good classroom practice prompting teachers to make their students provide evidence behind answers or the teacher to ask follow up questions.The basis of such programs is to change teacher behavior in order to move student outcomes in a positive direction. **Jamie Poskin**, founder of TeachFX stated that in a study of 100,000 hours of audio, the average student spoke 7 seconds per hour.

Other forms of AI used to provide teacher reflection regarding instruction, such as TalkMoves, provides teacher feedback on how many times the teacher followed an effective classroom practice with another engaging action, such as asking the student to make a case for a point presented or elaborating on a point made — practices that give students more agency in their learning. Still others provide teacher mentoring based on the problems students are having solving math problems in the classroom.
The common goals of such platforms is to make professional development personalized and safe while increasing student engagement and improving student outcomes.

For more on this report and a link to research studying the AI tool, M-Powering Teachers, please visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU899.**