



# Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

November 2022

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## Ohio group pilots \$2.9 million job training effort

JobsOhio, a nonprofit economic development corporation, is spearheading a \$2.9 million training program to increase the pool of workers with in-demand manufacturing skills. Ohio Lt. Gov. **Jon Husted** says the first-of-its-kind pilot program will include a full-time recruiter. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU818>.

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## Estimates show alarming chronic absenteeism rates

As many as 1 in every 3 public school students in the U.S. were chronically absent in the 2021-22 school year, according to Attendance Works. Their estimates show 16 million students missed at least 18 days of school that year, up from 8 million prior to the start of the pandemic. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU819>.

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## Ashtabula County freshmen learn about career pathways

**Ashtabula County Technical and Career Campus** and the Ohio State University extension office collaborated on an event to give ninth-grade students in the community insight into career pathways. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU820>.

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## Teacher morale administrators' top concern

Teacher morale is school administrators' top concern, according to results of Project Tomorrow's SpeakUp Survey shared recently during a congressional briefing. The survey also found that more teachers are expressing support for giving students more autonomy for their learning than prior to the pandemic. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU821>.

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## Program helps change idea of what a teacher looks like

Efforts to increase the likelihood that black male students will have black men as teachers include the Call Me MISTER — Men Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models — program. Founded in 2000 at Clemson University, the program is now offered in almost 30 colleges and universities. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU822>.

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## Strategies to use hand, arm gestures while teaching

Hand gestures can become another useful tool for teachers when used correctly to support learning and boost oral communication, writes **Todd Finley**, a professor of English education at East Carolina University. In this article, Finley writes about the benefits of hand and arm movements and offers several suggestions to maximize gesturing in the classroom. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU823>.

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## Student achievement in-depth

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

### **Study examines the effect of the pandemic on pediatric eye care**

Nearly 3% of children under 18 in the U.S. suffer from visual impairment or blindness. Vision screening is a vital part of pediatric care because of the impact of visual function on day-to-day life and the high potential for intervention for many causes of decreased vision, such as refractive error and amblyopia. The National Survey of Children's Health defined vision screening as testing with pictures, shapes or letters and, as noted above, it is essential to preventing vision loss.

A study published in the journal *Ophthalmology* found that vision screening prevalence among U.S. children steadily declined from 2016 to 2020 from 69.6% to 60.1%, adding that decreases in vision screening were present before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Findings, based on survey data of around 175,000 children, also showed there was a significant decrease in the proportion of children receiving eye screening from a specialist, from 55.6% to 50.4%, among those children who received screening. Vision screening by specialists included ophthalmologist and optometrist screenings, while non specialists included pediatricians and school nurses. Decreases in specialist use were exacerbated after the pandemic. Another notable trend observed after the pandemic onset was the significant increase in unmet vision health care needs that occurred despite downward trends in the preceding years (2016-2019).

Investigators hope to explore the impact of health insurance status on vision care access and need among children in the U.S. as well as the impact of the expansion of certain types of health care access during the pandemic, such as virtual appointment platforms.

For more information and to access the link to the study, please visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU824>.

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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>.