



Success

Timely tips for OSBA student achievement liaisons

December 2008

Tech education resource

The Milken Family Foundation, known in Ohio as the sponsor of a prestigious teaching award, has put together an extensive Web site on the value of using technology in the classroom. To learn more about using technology in schools, visit www.mff.org/edtech.

Managing student emotions can increase learning

A yet-to-be-published, four-year study, sponsored by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, reports that if you teach students to better manage their emotions through the practice of empathy, caring and cooperation, student academic achievement levels improve. To read more about this report, visit www.casel.org.

Understanding the OAT/OGT

We hear a lot about the Ohio Achievement Test and Ohio Graduation Test, but what do non-educators really know about them? The Ohio Department of Education has a Web page to help understand these two statewide testing programs, <http://portal.success-ode-state-oh-us.info>.

Do cultural barriers inhibit achievement?

As Ohio's schools become more culturally diverse, we must learn more about students' home life. As one New York school district's enrollment increased with Asian-Americans, parental involvement dropped. To read *The New York Times* article on Jericho Schools' response to this issue, visit www.nytimes.com/2008/11/12/education/12parents.html?_r=1.

Reforming Massachusetts public schools

Ohio is not alone in examining what works in the classroom. Massachusetts Gov. **Deval Patrick** commissioned a study on how his state could improve education. To download the report, go to www.mass.gov/Agov3/docs/Readiness%20Final%20Report.pdf.

Thank you for your work!

The Student Achievement Leadership Team members would like to thank you for your work as a student achievement liaison. What you do benefits your district's students!

Student achievement research brief

Each month, *Success* brings you a research brief to share with fellow board members.

Education innovators propose alternative agenda for federal role in education

“Democracy at Risk: The Need for a New Federal Policy in Education” is a report written to be a road map for federal policy, and to guide a new president, secretary of education and Congress as they debate the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The report, written by the Forum for Education & Democracy, builds on lessons learned from other nations and innovative schools created by local educators and community members.

The report claims that federal education policy is “inconsistent and shortsighted,” despite 25 years of education reform, and has left the United States further behind than it was in 1983. The report argues that many promising initiatives have been developed recently, but a long-term policy to take them to scale has been absent. A new strategy would require intensive and highly focused research and development; a skilled teaching and leadership force; support for new organizational designs; and investments in low-wealth schools to ensure they have the capacity to maintain productive strategies.

Key recommendations of the report include:

- Paying off the education debt. “Just as questionable fiscal policies have saddled our young people with an enormous monetary debt, our nation faces a huge educational debt resulting from hundreds of years of unequal educational and economic opportunity.”
- Investing in a new “Marshall plan” for teachers and school leaders. For \$4 billion, the government could underwrite the preparation of 40,000 teachers annually, as well as seed 100 top-quality urban teacher education programs, ensure mentors for every new teacher hired and dramatically improve professional learning opportunities for teachers and principals.
- Supporting education research and innovation. The federal government needs to become much more actively involved in gathering and sharing promising educational practices to help educators.
- Engaging and educating local communities. The federal government should engage in a coordinating offensive, making schools true hubs of communities and gateways to social services for students and community members.

To download “Democracy at Risk: The Need for a New Federal Policy in Education, use this link: www.forumforeducation.org/upload_files/files/FED_ReportRevised415.pdf.

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