

# Teacher April Newsletter

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## Goals for Success

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching; however, now is a great time to stop and reflect on the year and assess whether students are achieving their academic goals. Taking the time to reflect can help you improve your teaching skills and student achievement.

Steven Weber in his blog [Building Teacher Capacity: The Art of Reflection](#) provides five ways to reflect and increase teacher capacity and student understanding.

1. Reflect on what every student should know and be able to do.
2. Reflect on the learning space.
3. Reflect on student voice, choice and contribution.
4. Reflect on the understood curriculum.
5. Reflect on the whole child.

As the school year begins to wind down, take inventory of the last few months. Use these questions to guide your reflection.

- How are my students progressing toward meeting grade-level standards?
- Are my students meeting homework expectations?
- How can I help parents become involved in school activities?
- Are my students college and career ready?

## National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Seeing a child that has been a victim of child abuse or neglect is something that breaks the heart of every teacher. Child abuse can take many forms.

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe has developed a handout for teachers showing the warning signs of child abuse and neglect: <http://www.speakupbesafe.org/teachers/warning-signs-of-abuse-and-neglect-for-teachers.pdf>. The organization also has a research-based education curriculum for students that covers abuse in addition to bullying and cyber bullying: <https://childhelp.6connex.com/event/SpeakUpBeSafe/login>.

As a mandated reporter it is vital that teachers are able to recognize the signs of child abuse and know what to do when they see them. Arkansas Children's Hospital has gathered information on who is a mandated reporter and how to report a case of suspected child abuse:

<http://www.archildrens.org/Services/Social-Work-Department/Child-Abuse-Neglect/Reporting-Abuse.aspx>. Also check out the Mandated Reporters page on ADE's website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/safety/mandated-reporters>.

As you think about child abuse and its signs, consider the following questions.

- How can I support child abuse prevention programs in my community?
- What are my responsibilities as a mandated reporter?



<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>