



NSSEO Governing Board Brief

February 7, 2018

Engage. Connect. Grow.



FEBRUARY SHINING STARS

Aby Gonzalez and Megan George - Student Entrepreneurs

Aby Gonzalez and Megan George are Township District 214 students attending Buffalo Grove High School (BGHS) and receive vision as well as orientation and mobility services through NSSEO. These students created a business plan to raise greater awareness for the needs of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Aby and Megan designed and sold



chocolate-covered pretzels resembling white canes to students and staff at BGHS for \$1.50 each. These student entrepreneurs raised \$300 and educated the high school community about the needs of visually-impaired individuals, underscoring the importance of braille and white canes. These incredible students then donated the proceeds of their business endeavor to another very

important organization, LIMBS International. LIMBS International, <https://www.limbsinternational.org> is committed to engaging communities

and transforming lives through sustainable, affordable prosthetic solutions. The students were inspired by this organization's efforts through Amy Silverman, their BGHS case manager, who has strong ties to LIMBS . Aby and Megan passed out a white cane pretzel, a braille message and the braille alphabet to each NSSEO Governing Board member.

Aby and Megan demonstrated impressive career-building and self-determination skills throughout this business project. These young women emulate talent, commitment and aspiring business skills by engaging others in meaningful ways, connecting to the community through their efforts and helping others grow in their understanding of visual disabilities and ways to support students in need.

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

NSSEO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017-2018

The NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan focuses on three strategic priorities for the 2017-2018 school year: Instructional Practices, Transition and IEP Best Practices. Members of the NSSEO Leadership Team reported to the Governing Board on progress thus far and related evidence in each goal area. The Leadership Team also shared examples of how the growth is reflected in our schools and classrooms.

The Instructional Practices goal is meeting expectations at the midpoint of the school year. NSSEO is making strong improvements customizing the assessment of student learning and instructional growth, analyzing data sources through established growth measures and using data to support instructional decision-making. An important next step in advancing the instructional practices goal will be the development of an instructional framework to provide guidance for further differentiation of instruction effectively for a wide range of diverse needs.

Transition continues as a critical NSSEO focus as we continue to excel in our efforts in this life-focused plan. Well-delineated goals, strategic action steps on course for the year, aligned professional development, and family engagement efforts such as the opening of PERC have propelled the transition mindset forward. In the Transition domain, we will continue to

work on building a Dynamic Resume Rubric. We will also support continued efforts to educate and inform members of the community of the work we do at NSSEO, and the needs of our students as they exit school.

The third priority is IEP Best Practices as it reflects the cornerstone of educational planning for every student receiving special education services. As a District, we believe we are meeting the expectation mid year. Parents and member districts have provided positive feedback on the observable changes in IEP meetings, and staff have shared an increased level of comfort and understanding when using the new skills. A next step in this goal area for second semester is to begin the 2018-2019 professional development and coaching plan. This includes expanding new staff orientation to include these practices, providing an administrative training on IEP Best Practices and to develop a draft of modules for the second year of the professional development plan. Dr. Pam Radford shared a video of how the three aforementioned goals guided the content for the annual January Institute Day for NSSEO staff.

<https://spark.adobe.com/video/gwmQSF1oX0QgK>

Finance Advisory Committee Update

The NSSEO Finance Advisory Committee, made up of member district Business Officials and Special Education Administrative Representatives along with members of NSSEO leadership, staff and NSSEA members, met to review and discuss enrollment projections, staffing projections, and reserve recommendations for the FY 19 budget. When developing the budget, decisions are made in consideration of students, programs, and member district needs in alignment with NSSEO's Continuous Improvement Plan.

The next NSSEO Finance Advisory Committee meeting will take place on March 7th at 4:00 pm at the NSSEO Administration Center.

Upcoming Events

- 3/3 Showcase of Arts @ Kirk School 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 3/4 Showcase of Arts @ Kirk School 12:00-4:00 p.m.