



NSSEO Governing Board Brief **October 3, 2018**

NSSEO Shining Star: D26 River Trails Middle School Recognized for Implementation of Social Emotional Learning Standards.



D26 Staff Sarah Hogan, Maura Killion, Amy Veystman and Amanda Zavilla were honored at the NSSEO Governing Board for their positive impact as it relates to Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum at River Trails Middle School. In collaboration with NSSEO Coach, Stacey Weber, these exceptional instructional leaders refined district SEL practices by identifying tools to guide instruction and establish procedures that ensure evidence-based practices are implemented in classrooms. Dr. Nancy Wagner, Superintendent, and Dr. Miriam Cutler, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services, also joined in the recognition of the RTSD26 team that reflected high standards, dedication and an emphasis on innovative practices that enhance growth for students, staff and leaders through meaningful partnerships.

NSSEO 2018-2019 Continuous Improvement Plan - Goal 2: Student Centered Learning Environments.

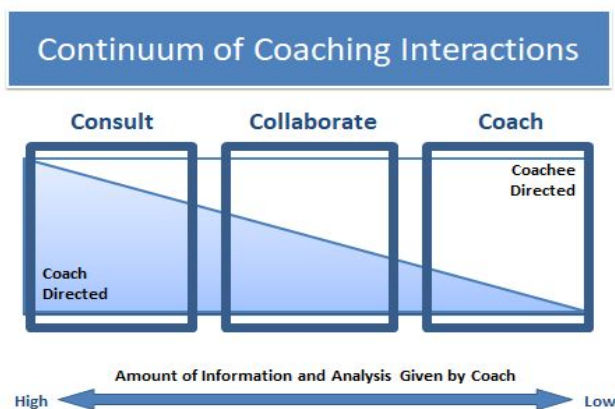
At each NSSEO Governing Board meeting, one of the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) goals is discussed and reflected upon. The NSSEO CIP for the 2018-2019 school year also includes a dashboard with indicators that are aligned to each CIP objective. These dashboard indicators are intended to communicate student outcomes, the positive impact and growth across programs, and additional services and supports.

This month's focus was on CIP Goal 2: Student Learning Environment, with an emphasis on building the capacity of our educators to support the social emotional learning and behavioral needs of students. Dr. Pamela Radford highlighted the power of effective coaching, sharing that "High quality professional learning includes job embedded coaching to support the application of practices into the classroom." Dr. Radford explained effective professional learning does not occur after 'sit and get' training and emphasized research that supports the increased impact of side-by-side coaching versus theory and discussion or demonstration in training techniques.

Dr. Radford reviewed several bodies of research including Lipton and Wellman's (2003) continuum of coaching interactions.

In addition, Effective student-centered coaching is designed to build capacity and implement evidence based practices through mindful role-release. Dr. Radford also reviewed and connected Diane Sweeney's (2018) methodologies related to the student centered coaching cycle and how the cycle applies within a

coach-teacher relationship at a team level and building/district level. Implementing an effective and student-centered coaching plan takes thoughtful organization and design, collaboration, and a well-communicated plan. Building a well designed professional learning and coaching plan leads to internal capacity-building that positively impacts the teaching and learning of students. This is an integral part of the professional learning model at NSSEO.



IDEA Update

Superintendent Dr. Hackett and Assistant Superintendent Julie Jilek have continued to advocate on behalf of NSSEO and member districts at the state level regarding the proposed state changes on how IDEA dollars would flow to special education cooperatives and districts. Dr. Hackett shared pertinent and timely updates with the NSSEO Governing Board on ISBE correspondence and the potential impact of the

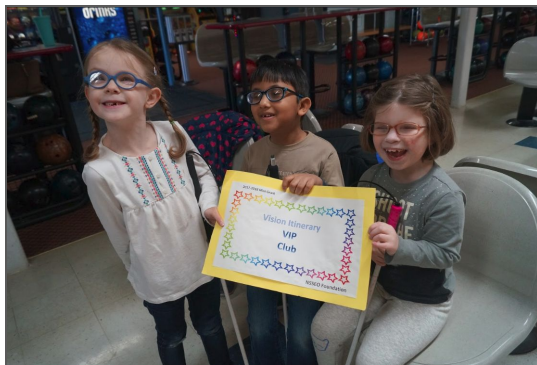
proposed changes. She testified on behalf of NSSEO districts regarding appropriations for FY 20 and next steps for Evidence-Based Funding, coupled with important points to consider if the suggested changes are adopted. [Click here to read the complete memo.](#)

The NSSEO Foundation awarded more than \$17,000 in Mini- Grants last school year.



NSSEO Foundation President and former NSSEO Kirk Teacher, Mrs. Sandy Neumann, highlighted the 2017-2018 Mini-Grant recipients and shared a summary of the incredible impact the 18 mini grants provided for students. The NSSEO Foundation awarded \$17,000 in grant money to fund creative initiatives with positive benefits for students. The grants ranged from bee keeping at Sunrise to campouts, overnights, and girls' club that gave students the opportunities to engage in experiential opportunities, connect with peers and gain confidence and skills as individuals. Students across all NSSEO programs have benefited from the Mini-Grant donations.

Mrs. Neumann shared the positive impact of these programs on the students, staff and families. One parent shared her heartfelt appreciation for the overnight held at Miner because it was the first time her teenage son spent a night away from home. "Allowing our son to sleep somewhere without me seemed unsafe and impossible. You created a safe environment at Miner. I knew you would make it a positive experience for him... I am grateful for your dedication to our kids. You made a difference."



The 2017-2018 NSSEO Foundation Mini-Grants align with the NSSEO Vision of "Enhancing students' talents and dreams for a promising future."

A special thank you to the NSSEO Foundation for their steadfast commitment to creating and expanding opportunities that support students, staff and families.

50 Years of Building Futures for Students with Special Needs



NSSEO is celebrating 50 years by hosting a Fundraising Bash on Sunday, November 4th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Ale House in Arlington Heights. This special event is designed to recognize alumni, partners, community leaders, staff and families who have collectively influenced the growing success and impact of NSSEO. We are proud to be a progressive organization committed to building promising futures for students with disabilities. Our goal for the 50th Bash is to raise funds to support academic, life skills, communication and employment opportunities for students across Kirk, Miner, Timber Ridge, satellite programs and the NSSEO community - through a community accessible lift van, sensory room expansion at Kirk, Miner Greenhouse and expansion of efforts at the Parent Education Resource Center (PERC). Please join us to celebrate and make a positive difference for students and families with special needs.

Please click [here](#) to give your support to this special purpose.