



NSSEO Governing Board Brief February 6, 2019

Hannah Oh, D 25 Student - February Shining Star - Outstanding Academic and Social Emotional Achievement



Hannah Oh, was recognized as the NSSEO Shining star for February. Hannah successfully transitioned to her home school this Fall after previously attending the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program at Riley Elementary School. Hannah uses her strong communication, hard work and self-advocacy skills to achieve success at school and gain confidence in her efforts. Melissa Swanson, NSSEO Administrator highlighted the intensive instruction and supports between school/family that enhanced communication skills growth.

At the start of 2018-2019, Hannah began attending Westgate Elementary in District 25 full time. Hannah's positive attitude, determination and keen ability to advocate for herself in school shines through in all she does. Hannah continues to benefit from the support of a skilled and caring classroom teacher, Mrs. Katie Heidrick, and a dedicated sign language interpreter, Ms. Samantha Jasinowski. The supportive team of educators from District 25 and NSSEO are so proud of Hannah's continued growth. Hannah is a shining example of the success students can achieve through determination, customized supports and collaborative partnerships between family, NSSEO and districts working together.

Continuous Improvement Plan, Goal 1:

On a monthly basis, one of the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) goals is highlighted with a NSSEO Governing Board presentation. The 2018-2019 NSSEO CIP also includes dashboard indicators that provide measures of growth aligned to the goals. February's Board update focused on CIP Goal 2, targeted on building educator capacity to support the social emotional learning and

behavioral needs of students. Ms. Melissa Swanson and Ms. Molly Dunne, leaders of the NSSEO satellite and itinerant programs and services, provided an integrated approach to presenting on Goal 2. They highlighted the partnerships between NSSEO teams and member district teams to collaborate on the supports students need to be successful, including professional learning via



in-services and professional learning communities, problem solving, co-planning, designing adaptations and accommodations as well as designing supplemental student instruction. Several student success stories were shared regarding students receiving integrated services in satellite programs. One glowing example is Mia Steinert, a sixth grader who attends River Trails Middle School and loves her middle school experience. Mia independently participates in science class, specials classes, P.E. and lunch with her general education peers, aligned with core academics in the NSSEO classroom. Mia made the Poms Team this year and enjoys performing at games with her friends.

Intentional planning and collaborative problem solving between District 26 and NSSEO teams have contributed to the amazing growth demonstrated by Mia and many other students. Success, self-determination and confidence are cultivated through the dedicated classroom and school teams coordinated efforts to supports students and foster positive and successful student outcomes.

Mid Year Report of NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan:

NSSEO Leadership Team representatives shared the highlights of the NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan with the NSSEO Governing Board and meeting attendees. Assistant Superintendent Heather Miehl began the Mid-Year report by highlighting progress made during the first semester on Goal One - Student Outcomes. Ms. Miehl highlighted the areas of academics, employment readiness, independent living, communication and social/emotional/behavioral that are intertwined as part of the instructional focus tailored to the diverse needs of students. Dr. Pamela Radford, Director of Professional Learning, highlighted the relationship and increased impact of coaching, mentoring and methodologies focused on engagement that have positively impacted student success in Goal Two - Student Learning Environments. Dr. Radford provided an overview of how NSSEO contributes to building the capacity of educators to support the social emotional learning and behavior needs of our students.



The indicators show growth in student engagement, motivation, and excitement for learning, leading towards a greater impact on student success. Goal Two continues to laser focus on efforts to ensure educators and coaches collaboratively plan and implement innovative teaching strategies and lessons to provide an engaging and rigorous learning environment. Dr. Kathleen McCord, Transition Coordinator, brought forward key indicators of growth in CIP Goal Three -Transition. Dr. McCord outlined the

current employment data for students at Kirk and Miner Schools with 80% of Connection Center students at Miner participating in community work experiences and 73% of Connection Center students at Kirk participating in community work experiences. Ensuring success in this area of growth requires a strong, intentional focus on professional learning. Fall institute days focused on

developing comprehensive person-centered transition planning for staff focused on guiding students and families to be equipped with the skills needed to achieve life goals. Dr. Judy Hackett concluded the mid year report with a highlight on Goal Four, highlighting the critical importance of parental engagement, communication, visibility and advancing legislative and community partnerships. Dr. Hackett shared the success of PERC, with over 200 parents attending trainings, events and networking opportunities at the Parent Education Resource Center (PERC) throughout the Fall. NSSEO has partnered with a production company to create a short video that captures the essence of our work and emphasize the important work of focusing on the future, as well as contains a call to action for the community to become involved and informed on how to make a difference. A stronger presence on social media and enhanced communication vehicles such as newsletters, briefs and the use of technological platforms, such as Thought Exchange, to interact and communicate with our stakeholders has allowed NSSEO to share information and gather feedback regarding a broad range of topics. Dr. Hackett spoke to the power and impact of legislative relationships and advocacy on behalf of students and families and highlighted the next phase of an engaged action plan at the upcoming NSSEO Legislative Roundtable scheduled for the morning of March 8th at NSSEO. Regional Legislators, Board members, district and NSSEO leaders and parents will participate in an engaged process to advance efforts and planning to effectively address the priorities around transitioning students to adult life.

Through the intensified efforts and focus of staff, program teams, leaders and supportive Board, continued efforts and growth towards our NSSEO CIP is evident. The alignment of dashboard indicators and the CIP reflects a customized approach to district reporting that takes into account the diverse and complex needs and scope of the continuous improvement process.

NSSEO Kirk/ Miner School Redesign:



Each year NSSEO reflects on current practices and looks at innovative ways that enhance and contribute to growth across programs, supports and services for students. NSSEO provides programming across various school sites to meet the diverse needs of students. Kirk and Miner Schools have been serving students ages 3 through 21 with complex needs for decades. The needs and supports at both schools have become more similar over the past several years. Beginning in August of 2019 Miner School will serve students with intense educational needs from Early Childhood through Grade 8. The Kirk Campus will be a secondary site, serving students with complex needs at the High School and Transition level in the Connection Center, through age 21. The purpose of the redesign is to enhance opportunities at all levels by increasing the depth and scope of the work by age levels. This change will allow us to maximize resources and effectiveness that support a wide range of complex needs and build stronger professional learning communities at each level aligned to student needs.

NSSEO Leaders have met with stakeholder groups ranging from the entire staffs of Miner and Kirk, to PTA leaders at Miner and Kirk, NSSEA leadership, parents, member district leaders and Board Members over the past two weeks to share, receive input and continue planning through valuable input and suggestions. Miner and Kirk Staff members were able to indicate their preference of location and as predicted, 95% of all Kirk and Miner staff which includes educators and support staff want to follow their students or had no preference, emphasizing their student-focused interest and dedication. Periodic updates to all stakeholders will provide important information, adjusted timelines and highlight events and upcoming activities. The Kirk/Miner Transition Committee membership is being finalized and includes parents, staff and leadership with a shared focus on determining what essential components need to be included for a successful transition. The focus will include transition activities, student and building needs, professional learning, communication and updated timelines. A communication platform has also been established to provide an opportunity to communicate frequently with stakeholders and provide a vehicle for parents and staff to ask questions and offer suggestions. The redesign aligns to the four goals of the NSSEO Continuous Improvement plan and will continue to provide the same instructional programming, services, supports through the dedicated efforts of Miner and Kirk staff with an intensified focus at each age level. A continued student-centered approach to meeting the unique, specialized needs of every student is at the core of the work. Monthly updates will be provided at NSSEO Governing Board meetings and further information on celebrations and transitions will be shared through a variety of communication modalities.

Upcoming NSSEO Events:

2/21	6:00pm	Basketball Game @ Miner
2/24	2:00pm- 5:00pm	Miner Friends & Family Bowling Fundraiser @ Arlington Lanes
3/8	9:00am-11:00am	NSSEO Legislative Roundtable-Building Futures Together