



Date: 5/4/18

To: Kevin Sved

From: Sharon Waller

Re: Student Services Update

The SSD, under the motto of **Every Child by Name and Need**, is dedicated to improving our inclusion model and the NS Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. The department has also spearheaded one of the adopted organizational initiatives, the increase in social emotional learning (SEL) at our schools. In addition to these efforts, staff/leadership development and increased parent involvement were focuses.

Improvements in the inclusion model were initiated through study of exemplar programs, the State Taskforce Report on Special Education and through self-reflection of our model. The team debriefed and created action steps for 2018/2019 at a Student Services Retreat where 14 out of 16 student services staff (SSS) attended. The action steps were the following: Increase parent involvement through education, Improve the culture of inclusion through weekly collaboration meetings between SSS, gen ed teacher and the small group instructor (SGI) and create a bank of modified materials for our inclusion students to build capacity.

Work on refinement of the NS MTSS framework was achieved through a visit to an exemplar PBIS school (Edna Batey in Elk Grove). Following that visit, the team committed to the creation of an MTSS Coordinator, the adoption of common expectations about Tier 2 and Tier 3 needs, and an increase in PD in MTSS and SEL.

The SSS team in conjunction with a lead teacher (Jessie Hill) and the special project staff member (Sean Martin) co-wrote and submitted a grant to support MTSS improvements and SEL initiative, The SUMS Initiative Grant for \$50,000. We were notified last week that we've been preliminarily awarded this grant.

In the area of staff development, the Director supervised the SSS leader at HPS through an Alliant University partnership. The candidate, Jessica Sanchez, who started as a paraprofessional at HPS three years ago, will graduate with her Educational Specialist credential in August. She will be the lead special education teacher at HPS in the Fall.

The SSD led an effort to increase the numbers of parent workshops in at both schools. The department hosted a Parent resource fair at HPS and two parent classes, Parents and Media, Parents and Positive Behavioral Strategies, at both campuses.)

Respectfully,

Sharon Waller