

Educational Highlights for Leaders

Serving Erie, Huron, and Lorain Counties

Perkins Pirates Sailing Along with Innovative Learning for Teachers

by Nancy Osko

In the last edition of our newsletter, State Support Team Region 2 Early Literacy Consultant Nancy Osko wrote "What Does it Take to Really Teach Reading?" In this edition, she takes a closer look at how Perkins Schools is embracing this research in their implementation of instructional decisions to better support their students.

Perkins Local School District has taken on this endeavor of professional development so teachers become informed and empowered to make the most effective instructional and systemic decisions within their schools.



"Perkins Local School District enrolls approximately 2400 students in grades PreK-12. The school district is located in Sandusky, Ohio, and serves students from five townships and in an open enrollment capacity. The District believes students need to be educated in order "to compete in a global society that requires more advanced levels of Communication, Collaboration, Critical thinking and Creative problem solving... To prepare our students we believe it is essential to change 'age-old' traditional teacher-led education to provide more opportunities for students to actively engage in their own learning" (Perkins website, 2017).

Because of this belief, they have begun a journey like no other. The journey they embarked on is part of Ohio's State Systemic Improvement Plan, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education and State Support Teams throughout the state. I am working in collaboration with an internal literacy coach, Rena McClellan, to assist Perkins to align this new learning within a systems approach. As part of the Teacher Based Teams, Building Level Teams and District Level Team process embedded within the Ohio Improvement Framework, each team works at their level to integrate the new learning found in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling Modules, known as the LETRS project. They

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Save the Date!

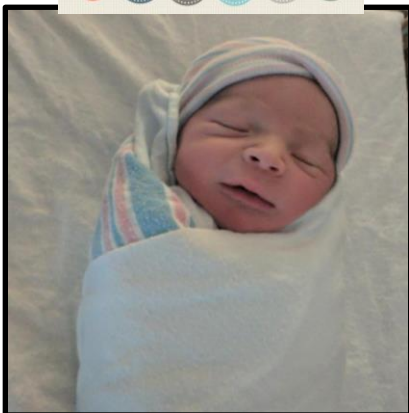
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have been asking many questions and adjusting instruction to meet students' needs based on the Word Recognition side this first year. The next step will include Language Comprehension learning. This work includes looking at student data and talking about innovative ways to change instruction.

A Perkins teacher asks, "I have done some "deeper digging" with some assessments (through LETRS training). While I use this info to drive my instruction, do I also use it for writing my IEP goals? If I do, some students may not utilize (redacted vendor tool name was here), but may need rather intense instruction on very specific components of reading, such as phonemic awareness. Maybe we could talk soon?"

This is the work being done for **all** students by dedicated passionate teachers throughout grades PK-3. The learning is empowering teachers to ask questions, dig deeper, and make instructional decision based on each child's needs. I am humbled and proud to be working with a professional learning community within Perkins Schools.



Jamie Tischer and her husband welcomed Russell James Tischer on 5/11/17. Please join us in congratulating Jamie and Russ!



The 2017 Assistive Technology Conference and Vendor Fair provides the opportunity for teachers, administrators, and families to learn about tools and strategies that are available to assist students in the areas of communication, hearing, organization, vision, reading, and writing. The events have continued to expand across the state due to positive feedback from past attendees. State Support Team Regions 1, 2, 6, & 7 are collaborating to bring an event to you in Mansfield, OH on October 3, 2017. The event will be open to register through STARS soon. Please visit <http://www.ohioatvendorfair.org/> for detailed information about this event as well as other events taking place across Ohio.



State Support Team Region 2 has updated the summer camp brochure which lists opportunities for students this summer within Erie, Huron, and Lorain counties. Please visit <http://www.sstr2.org/FamilyCorner.aspx> to download the summer camp brochure.

Feel free to come visit, we're here all summer!



SST Region 2 Announces the R.A. Horn Outstanding Student Achievement and the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award Recipients

by Joshua Preece

Every school year, a selection committee of several SST Region 2 staff members and educators throughout the region has the privilege and honor of selecting recipients for the R.A. Horn Outstanding Student Achievement Award and the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award. These educational leaders are recognized within their buildings at end-of-year celebrations. They are also recognized by the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities during an awards ceremony in Columbus each year. Many amazing nominations were submitted for both awards, making the selection process challenging for the committee.



Kyle Bayer, a senior from North Ridgeville High School, was chosen to receive the 2017 R.A. Horn Outstanding Student Achievement Award. Kyle was nominated by his teacher, Ms. Caitlin Carlo, who stated, "Kyle has always been a natural leader. He is very kind and loving to his peers. He maintains good friendships and demonstrates wonderful social skills. He is a hardworking, straight-A student and has previously been recognized by North Ridgeville's Academic Recognition Committee for maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher." In addition to Kyle's excellence in academics, he also volunteers to make care packages for our troops and demonstrates an exemplary work ethic at Heinen's, Renaissance Nursing Home and The Winking Lizard. He is also an active member in the school gaming club and is a cheerleader on the Sparkle Squad and participates annually in the Lorain County Special Olympics. Ms. Carlo also stated, "He is an inspiration and a perfect example of someone who finds the good in any situation."

Betsy Bauer, Jennifer Cotterill, Greg Dickson, Kelly Groomes, Lynn Magyar, and Melanie Sandell, teaching team at Midview Middle School, are the recipients of the 2017 Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award. Ms. Bauer and Ms. Sandell serve the 7th grade students, while Ms. Magyar and Ms. Groomes serve the 8th grade students. Mr. Dickson and Ms. Cotterill help to support this team in a co-teaching setting. Principal John Brown nominated this excellent teaching team, stating, "This team works tirelessly to provide the best science education...to not only the students with disabilities but all students. They epitomize Midview Middle School's mission statement - Learning is our goal. Growth is our mission." This team has really focused on standards-based learning. They continuously allow and encourage students to reassess when a standard is not mastered, thus encouraging success for all students. Mr. Brown also stated, "The most impressive thing to me is not the scores but the students' involvement in their own learning. They are active from the start of class to the end of class, not with busy work, but with true discovery of learning."



Pictured from left to right are Jennifer Cotterill, Kelly Groomes, Melanie Sandell, Greg Dickson, and Lynn Magyar (Betsy Bauer is not pictured).

State Support Team Region 2 is proud to recognize these exceptional educators and student.

Additional R.A. Horn and Franklin B. Walter Award Nominees

Additional R.A. Horn Outstanding Student Achievement Award nominees include:

- First-grader **Will Mounsey** of Avon Lake City Schools, nominated by Nicole Slivinski, Intervention Specialist
- Fourth-grader **Terrell Bragg** of Lorain City Schools, nominated by Brittany Hreha, Intervention Specialist
- Senior **Rhett Roeder** of Monroeville High School, nominated by Jen Harvey, School Counselor

Additional Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award nominees include:

- **Jesse Gimperling**, Intervention Specialist of Huron City Schools, nominated by Brian Kucbel, School Principal
- **Brittany Hreha**, Intervention Specialist of Lorain City Schools, nominated by Megan Young, School Principal

State Support Team Region 2 would like to extend our congratulations to all of the award nominees and wish them continued success in their endeavors. Thank you for your amazing efforts and keep up the great work!

Giving Back to the Community



During the 2016-17 school year, State Support Team Region 2 has given back to our community by participating in a 'Year of Giving'. Each staff member chose a charitable organization per month to support. To wrap up the year, Assistant Director Jennifer Heim and Executive Administrative Assistant Jackie Stillwagon participated in Flat Rock Homes 'Race at the Rock' by running the 5k on April 29, 2017.

Flat Rock Homes is a residential facility for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities that serves people from Lorain, Erie, and Huron counties, and beyond. By recruiting friends and family members to participate as well, SST 2's staff was able to personally donate \$350.00 to Flat Rock Homes.



Elyria City Schools and State Support Team Region 2 Work Together to Improve Results for All Learners



The following is an excerpt taken from “Using OIP-OLAC [Ohio Improvement Process-Ohio Leadership Advisory Council] as the Bedrock for Improvement”, Cornerstone, January 2017, describing how State Support Team Region 2 uses a tiered delivery model to work effectively with districts. SST 2 Educational Consultant Jennifer Jackson-Ausperk serves as a lead consultant to Elyria City Schools. The information below features her collaborative experience with Elyria.

Building on a Strong Foundation

“We collaborate with each other [SSTR2 employees] and hold sacred our staff meeting because of the nature of our work and because so many of us might touch the district,” said SST consultant Jennifer Jackson-Ausperk. Consultants use a shared database to communicate with each other about their individual interactions with districts.

Jackson-Ausperk explains: “Any time one of us is in a district, we update the team spreadsheet. I can click on a tab and see what my colleagues have done in the district. That helps paint a picture so I don’t have to walk in cold. It’s a very supportive atmosphere here, which is key to the work we do.”

Cultivating Trust through Constancy

Another core value that SST 2 consultants hold sacred is the commitment to building strong working relationships with district personnel. “Being steadfast and stable is really important,” reflected Jackson-Ausperk. “Districts like stability and were frustrated in the past when things constantly changed. I jokingly tell districts that they’re stuck with me. That reputation for being stable and consistent spreads and now we’re getting calls from independent districts that want us to work with them,” she said.

Elyria, one of the largest districts in the region, is participating in the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) as well as the Ohio Leadership for Inclusion, Implementation, & Instructional Improvement (OLI⁴) project coordinated through the University of Dayton School of Education and Health Sciences Grant Center.

Ann Schloss, Director of Academic Services for Elyria [promoted to Assistant Superintendent, March, 2017], credits having stable and continuous support from the SST with helping Elyria make the shift from a focus on compliance to a focus on instructional improvement. “Even though we do a lot internally to support improvement, it’s helpful to have someone like Jenn who can look at what we do from different eyes. The feedback she provides is critical and she’s seen as part of the district, a true Pioneer!” said Schloss.



Ann Schloss (left) is pictured with Jennifer Jackson-Ausperk (right).

Elyria, home of the Pioneers, participated as one of the initial test districts during the development of the OIP. Schloss relayed that in the early years many Elyria teachers and administrators viewed using the OIP as a compliance mandate from the state. Now, with Jenn’s support, “they don’t look at it as compliance or as the ‘get-er-done’ forms anymore, but rather as support that meets our needs. The SST works with us to customize

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Elyria and SST 2 Improves Results (continued from page 5)

the process and that's resulted in greater trust. Teachers now look at the SST as a support," explained Schloss. Jackson-Ausperk's work in Elyria includes working with the District Leadership Team (DLT), working with and participating in building leadership team (BLT) meetings, and helping to support teacher-based team (TBT) development. "When I walk in they're excited to see me, I'm one of them. When they see you're invested in partnership, you can begin to move mountains," remarked Jackson-Ausperk.



September 1 – December 31, 2017

Date(s) of PD	Title of PD	Time
08/07/17 & 08/08/17	Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Two-Day Training	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
08/22/17	Child Outcomes Summary – Part 1 and Part 2	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
09/06/17	Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Hybrid	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
09/12/17, 11/28/17 & 02/28/18	Guiding Schools to Success Using the OIP Process Series (Lorain County)	8:15 – 9:45 am OR 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
09/13/17, 11/29/17 & 03/01/18	Guiding Schools to Success Using the OIP Process Series (Erie County)	9:00 am – 10:30 am
09/18/17, 10/06/17 & 11/13/17	CSEFEL: Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
09/26/17	College and Career Readiness: Tools for Implementation	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
09/26/17, 01/22/18 & 04/17/18	Deconstructing Standards for ELA Series	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
09/27/17, 01/23/18 & 04/18/18	Deconstructing Standards for Math Series	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
10/06/17, 01/12/18, 03/16/18 & 05/18/18	Pre-K to K Transition Study Group	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
10/09/17 OR 10/23/17	Career Advising and Ohio Means Jobs	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
10/10/17	Unpacking Standards – ELA Grades 6-12	8:00 am – 11:30 am
10/10/17	Unpacking Standards – ELA Grades K-5	12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
10/10/17	Brain Based Learning Online Book Study	ONLINE
10/10/17	Ethics and Early Childhood Educator Book Study	ONLINE
10/17/17	Unpacking Standards – Math Grades 6-12	8:00 am – 11:30 am
10/17/17	Unpacking Standards – Math Grades K-5	12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
10/19/17, 12/14/17, 02/22/18 & 04/19/18	Early Childhood Leadership Series	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
10/20/17, 12/12/17 & 01/29/18	Autism Strategies in Action Preschool Series	8:30 am – 11:30 am
11/29/17	Unpacking Standards – Science Grades 6-12	8:00 am – 11:30 am
11/29/17	Unpacking Standards – Science Grades K-5	12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
11/30/17	Unpacking Standards – Social Studies Grades 6-12	8:00 am – 11:30 am
11/30/17	Unpacking Standards – Social Studies Grades K-5	12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

New Behavioral Disproportionality Regulations and Supports

By Darren Conley



The federal Office of Special Education Programs has amended the IDEA regulations relating to *significant disproportionality*. This disproportionality generally occurs when students of one racial or ethnic group are more likely to receive special education identification, placement in a more restrictive setting, or more discipline compared to all other students, thus denying them access to instruction and the support they need to succeed academically.

The IDEA requires the Department to promote equity by identifying and preventing significant disproportionality. Looking at disproportionality data helps ensure that the right services are getting to the right students in the right way.

New Data for Special Education Profiles

Ohio's Special Education Profiles currently include data on disproportionality related to identification and discipline of students with disabilities. In 2016, the federal Office of Special Education Programs revised IDEA regulations, clarifying the categories of discipline events that states must review. Currently, profiles include discipline data only on out-of-school suspensions and expulsions of more than 10 cumulative days. The expanded data will include all in-school suspensions, out-of-school-suspensions and expulsions. Other new data will include total disciplinary removals, including in-school and out-of-school suspensions, expulsions and removals by school personnel and hearing officers.

The Department will include expanded disproportionality data in the 2017-2018 Special Education Profiles *for informational purposes only*. Beginning in 2018-2019, districts will be accountable for significant disproportionalities in the new categories. The delay in implementation allows districts to work with the Office for Exceptional Children and their State Support Teams to examine and improve their systems of support for students with disabilities.

Implementing the New Regulations

To prepare for these changes, the Department will gather stakeholder groups to offer feedback and help design policies, practices, procedures and supports.

As you prepare your final EMIS student data, it is important to confirm the accuracy of discipline data submitted. The Department recommends special education staff work with personnel responsible for reporting discipline events to ensure accuracy of these data:

- Reported number of days of discipline;
- Discipline type;
- Race of the student; and
- Disability condition (or lack thereof) in the student detail record.

You can expect further guidance around discipline disproportionality to be published in the near future. For more information, please contact Darren Conley, SST 2 Positive Behavior Intervention & Support and Family Engagement Consultant, at 440-324-5777 x1131 or conley@sstr2.org.



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