



Supporting Student Success (S3)

March, 2019,
Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 7

In this Issue:

- From the coordinator
- Featured School
- Research

From the S3 Coordinator

Hello Everyone! Some of you have begun to ask about the S3 grant for next year. I will have information in May about the grant, so I will let you know as soon as I am able to pass along the information.

This afternoon I attended a webinar, sponsored by Education Week, entitled, “Middle School Students’ Academic and Social-Emotional Learning: New Research and Practices.” Please see the Research section below for details. The webinar provided excellent information, focusing on two school districts, one in Illinois. As more are offered, I will pass them along to you. I wanted to ensure the quality before I started sending you information about more webinar opportunities from this source.

Happy spring!

Featured School – Lindbergh Middle School, Peoria Public Schools

For the past two years S3 has helped to fund Covey’s “Leader in Me” program at Lindbergh Middle School. Last year was devoted to staff training in the “7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.” This year, training and implementation went to the student level.

“Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model and process developed in partnership with educators that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Leader in Me helps students learn how to become self-reliant, take initiative, plan ahead, set and track goals, do their homework, prioritize their time, manage their emotions, be considerate of others, express their viewpoint persuasively, resolve conflicts, find creative solutions, value differences, and live a balanced life. The process helps students develop the skills and self-confidence they need to lead their lives and succeed in school and beyond.

Leader in Me started with one school in North Carolina and has since grown to thousands of schools in over eighty countries throughout the world.” There is a Leader in Me program for Elementary, Middle, High School levels as well as a family program.

For more information please go to <https://www.leaderinme.org/>.

Research

The Education Week sponsored webinar was conducted by Panorama Education, an organization that conducts research on timely education topics and helps schools collect, analyze and use data for school improvement efforts. Today's webinar focused on the SEL efforts of two school districts: Champaign, IL, District #4, and Miami/Dade County Schools in Florida. In essence, what the research conducted in their middle schools showed students universally to need following:

- A sense of belonging
- A feeling of being safe
- A growth mindset
- Grit – Perseverance to achieve goals
- Goal setting

Some efforts these schools implemented to improve the social-emotional well-being of students include:

- Infusing SEL into every moment of the day in every content area. For example, in math, team-building and problem-solving were infused. Professional development to accomplish this was provided.
- Standards-based grading
- A set of implemented counseling standards
- SEL curriculum, such as Second Step, infused into core content
- Flex time

Champaign District #4 also has one on one mentoring for every student and real world project based learning for all students.

All for now,

Jan