

Agenda Item Details

Meeting: August 6th, 2025

Category: Superintendent Update

Subject: Strategic Plan Update-Governance Priority

Access: Public

Type: Informational

In February 2025, this [Governing Board Memo](#) regarding the NSSEO Strategic Plan was provided to the board representatives, and discussed during the Superintendent Update at the governing board meeting. Additionally, this [Governance Priority Action Plan](#) which was developed by a representative group of NSSEO stakeholders on January 29th, 2025, was also discussed. The action plan includes the implementation of a two- tiered governance structure, including a Governing Board composed of one member of each member district school board, and an Operational Board composed of each member district superintendent and the superintendent of NSSEO.

There was much discussion at the board table over the course of several meetings in spring of 2025 regarding the governance priority. As the NSSEO superintendent, I am recommending that the board adopt the two- tiered governance structure that was agreed upon as part of our strategic plan, with both a Governing Board, and an Operational Board. Provided here is a draft of revised NSSEO Articles of Organization including this structure. [DRAFT](#)

The implementation of a two tiered governance structure does not in any way diminish the importance of our governing board. NSSEO needs our governing board, to continue to advocate to their home boards both the importance of the work done, and services provided by NSSEO, so that resources from each member district can be allocated toward the budgetary needs of our students with disabilities. Additionally, our governing board represents NSSEO in the community of each of our member districts, ensuring our students are included in community events, and advocating for work opportunities for our students in our local businesses. Further, in the two-tiered structure, the Operational Board will function within the budget and allocated resources approved by the governing board members. Governing board members will continue to represent the will of their home boards, in cooperatively providing the best possible outcomes for students with disabilities, as our cooperative has done for over fifty years.

NSSEO *exists* to serve our member districts, and meet their needs for educating students with disabilities, whose Least Restrictive Environment is not in a general education setting. NSSEO

exists to serve member districts' needs for technical assistance in the provision of their in-district special education programs, as well as for staffing and targeted professional development that keeps districts aligned with both best practices and state and federal laws. NSSEO is *one of many* ways our districts provide services for students with disabilities. Our superintendents are responsible for educating all students within their district boundaries, and they have a deep understanding of the resources needed, applicable laws, and the finite resources of their individual districts. They know *how they need NSSEO to respond, grow, and change* to keep pace with the expectations of the changing educational landscape.

As stated previously, I am recommending that the board adopt the two tiered governance structure agreed upon in the NSSEO Strategic Plan. I feel that this is the best course of action to be able to implement the other three ambitious priorities that comprise the rest of the plan. It is an excellent and well developed plan that will enable NSSEO to meet the needs and expectations of our member districts as we work collaboratively to educate all students.