

Northwest Local School District Joins Health Care Consortium

Cincinnati, OH – Today, Northwest Local School District announces joining the Southwest Ohio Organization of School Health - SWOOSH, a new health care consortium created by school districts and health care provider Horan. Several school districts came together to develop this consortium due to the continuing increases in high rates. The consortium will create cost stability, achieve value from scale and also allow the districts to shape where they want their medical benefits to go in the future.

Northwest School District spent several years looking into ways to reduce its healthcare costs with healthcare plan changes, pooling and self-funding. In 2009, NWLSD began to meet with existing consortiums, its district health care committee and the health care consultant Horan & Asso. It was then that four Hamilton County School Treasurers met with Horan to create a health care alliance that would meet all of the needs of each district. Today, two of these districts are a part of the six member SWOOSH consortium - Winton Woods and Northwest Local School District.

Working together to purchase group insurance allows the school districts to pool their members. With more members on the plan, the consortium can leverage the larger scale of the entire group and work toward obtaining the most competitive rates while securing unique wellness offers and additional benefits to better manage long term costs.

“The objective of the SWOOSH consortium is to maximize benefits and / or reduce costs of medical, prescription drug, vision, dental, life and / or other group insurance coverages,” said Valerie Bogdan Powers, HORAN’s Vice President of Group Operations. “While the consortium serves short term savings needs, in the long term it will promote rate stability and allow the districts to move to a healthier place using wellness.”

“Joining SWOOSH gives our districts a better chance of reducing our health care costs over time,” said Greg Hester, Director of Human Resources, Northwest Local School District and Board President of SWOOSH. “The consortium is looking forward to working with United Healthcare, the dedicated wellness nurse, and district health scorecards they are providing. These elements are key to achieving the goals of SWOOSH.”

SWOOSH is governed by a Board of Directors that includes the Superintendent or a designee from each district. The Board of Directors includes:

President: Greg Hester, Director of Human Resources, Northwest Local School District

Vice President: Randy Seymour, Treasurer, Winton Wood City School District

Fiscal Agent: Julia Toth, Treasurer, Indian Hill Exempted Village School District

2nd Signing Agent: Debbie Burton, Supervisor of Business Operations, Milford Exempted Village School District

Voting Member: Tom Golinar, Treasurer, Southwest Local School District

Voting Member: Randy Bertram, Treasurer, Northwest Local School District

Voting Member: Tim Ackerman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Operations, Milford Exempted Village School District

Voting Member: Eric Sotzing, Treasurer, Lebanon City School District

Secretary: Valerie Bogdan-Powers, VP Group Operations
HORAN

Currently, SWOOSH serves six school districts and 2,730 enrolled individuals.

Other school districts that are members of the consortium include: Indian Hill Exempted Village School District, Lebanon City School District, Milford Exempted Village School District, and Southwest Local School District.