



# Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals



## Star of Innovation Award Application Form

School Name Kimball Area High School Grade Levels 6-12  
Name of School District Kimball Schools  
Name of Principal Nancy Bonnifield  
Application Submitted By Nancy Bonnifield  
School Street Address 100 Hwy 55 W; PO Box 368  
City, Zip Kimball, MN 55353  
Telephone Number 320-398-7700  
MASSP Division Central  
Name of Program 6:10 Connect

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet/s of paper.

- Description of the program.
- How has it impacted your school?
- What difficulties did you encounter in its implementation?
- What issue/s might another school encounter in replicating this program?
- Do you have any data to show the impact of this program? If so, please share it with us.

Applications must be submitted to MASSP offices by March 1.

PHONE: 612-361-1510 • FAX: 612-361-6340  
MASSP • 2 Pine Tree Drive • Suite 380 • Arden Hills, MN 55112

Questions? Please contact:  
Bob Driver, Executive Director  
612-361-6159

## Star of Innovation Award Application

### Description of the Program

6:10 Connect is a student mentorship program connecting 6th grade students with 10th grade mentors. The overall goal is to provide a positive peer relationship with upperclassmen focusing on building community and social-emotional skills.

Our logo shows a lightbulb with three people in the middle to represent a mentor and two mentees.



### How Has it Impacted Your School?

6:10 Connect started in October 2023 and is going great! We have 20 10th grade mentors and 50 6th grade mentees. We are seeing a benefit to all students involved including feeling connected to the school community.

### What Difficulties Did You Encounter in its Implementation?

None! There were very few roadblocks. The Principal and Social Worker worked on laying the foundation of this program by creating an expectations guide which addressed things like attendance, appropriate physical space, mentor and mentee roles, social media, gifts, etc. Because things were very clear from the beginning, the difficulties have been very few.

### What Issue/s Might Another School Encounter in Replicating this Program?

Another school may encounter issues getting 10th grade mentors to sign-up. It's a year-long commitment and they are away from their friends each week during 6:10 Connect. To counter this, we gave them all a t-shirt, provided room for their opinions regarding some of the programming, and didn't engage with the mentors outside of the scheduled mentorship time. Basically, we respected their time. We are hoping that current mentors will encourage future mentors to get involved because we couldn't run this program without them.

### Do you Have any Data to Show the Impact of this Program?

- Attendance - Our attendance data does not show a big difference for our 6th graders. However, for our 10th graders, their attendance rate in 2022-23 from Nov-Jan was 90% and increased to 91.6% in 2023-24.
- Discipline referrals from August-February have decreased from 2021-22
  - 2023-24: 8 discipline referrals
  - 2022-23: 8 discipline referrals
  - 2021-22: 11 discipline referrals
- PASS data: Measuring Social-Emotional Wellbeing
  - 2023-24 data shows that 80% of our 6th grade students have positive feelings about school. This is the highest percentage in the 6-12 student body.



<b>Training</b>	October 2, 9, 19 in the Media Center during Advisory
<b>Match Length</b>	1 school year, approx Oct-April
<b>Frequency</b>	19 min/week, 3x/month
<b>Protocols for absence:</b>	Email Ms. Fladebo and 10th grade match partner
<b>Being late:</b>	Not acceptable
<b>Match termination:</b>	If a mentor is not meeting expectations, a meeting will be held with 6:10 Connect Coordinators and the student. A plan will be agreed upon and the mentor will return to their role. Further concerns will result in mentor termination.
<b>Program Coordinators:</b>	Alyssa Fladebo, <a href="mailto:alyssa.fladebo@kimball.k12.mn.us">alyssa.fladebo@kimball.k12.mn.us</a> Nancy Bonnifield, <a href="mailto:nancy.bonnifield@kimball.k12.mn.us">nancy.bonnifield@kimball.k12.mn.us</a>

### **Expectations of the Mentor**

1. Be kind and supportive of 6th grade mentees
2. Participate in all Mentorship Mondays making every effort to be in school on 6:10 Connect days
3. Follow training guidelines regarding student privacy
4. Follow established program outline and weekly topics

### **Expectations of Parents/Guardians**

1. Encourage school attendance on 6:10 Connect days
2. Show interest in the 6:10 Connect program and be supportive of your students' role as a mentor or mentee

### **Mentor's obligations and appropriate roles**

- Report concerns to the Coordinators within 24 hours
- Mentors are to serve as peer mentors. Concerns that arise will be handled by adults. Mentors are encouraged not to take on problems that may be shared by their mentee.

## **Program Closure**

A year-end celebration will take place on April 29, 2024. This will signify the end of 6:10 Connect for the school year. Mentors will have no additional obligations with their mentee after the year-end celebration.

## **Source of assistance to support mentors**

Mentors are encouraged to share program concerns with the 6:10 Connect Coordinators.

## **Social Media**

Mentors are encouraged to avoid being connected to their mentor on social media due to the age gap.

## **Appropriate Physical Contact**

Examples of appropriate physical contact include a fist bump or a high five. Inappropriate physical contact includes but is not limited to a back massage, wrestling, sitting too close, etc.

## **Mentoring monitoring**

Mentors will be emailed a check-in each month. The purpose of the check-in is to

- A. Inform the Coordinators of program suggestions
- B. Document how the mentorship relationship is going
- C. Ask questions in an online format

## **Approved Activities**

Appropriate activities may include

- Greeting each other in school
- Participating in 6:10 Connect activities
- Sitting together at school events
- Supporting each other by attending each others school activities

Inappropriate activities may include

- Playing XBox together with other students
- Hanging out at each others houses
- Going places together
- Spending money on each other

### **Mandatory reporting requirements**

Mandated reporters are people who are authorized - and required - to report situations where they believe that a child may be in danger of abuse or neglect. Teachers, paraprofessionals, all administration, and support staff in an educational setting are mandated reporters.

Students are not mandated reporters. If a peer mentor suspects that a student may be in danger of abuse or neglect, they should report that to the 6:10 Connect Coordinators. Students will not be involved in making the mandated report or in any follow-up communications.

### **Money spent on 6:10 Connect activities**

- Stearns County Family Collaborative has awarded Kimball Schools a grant of \$800 to support the student mentorship program
- Grant money will be used for special events in support of student mentor relationships

### **Transportation**

All off-site activities will include transportation provided by the school

### **Emergency and Crisis Procedures**

Students will use ALICE procedures in a crisis situation.

- A - Alert
- L - Lockdown
- I - Inform
- C - Counter/fight
- E - Evacuate

### **Photo & Image Use**

Photos taken by district staff at 6:10 Connect events may be shared through print and/or digital media unless a parent/guardian has opted their student out during student registration in JMC. Mentors should be careful to not share photos taken with their mentee online or on social media.

### **Evaluation and Use of Data**

Program evaluation will be conducted by the Coordinators. Data related to the program will be collected throughout the year. Evaluation and data may be shared as determined by the Coordinators while protecting the privacy of the students.

## **Grievance Procedures**

All grievances regarding 6:10 Connect should be directed to the HS Principal.

## **Mentee Training**

Ms. Fladebo and Ms. Bonnifield will provide training to 6th graders between Oct 16-18 on the following topics

- Meeting location, time, schedule
- Appropriate physical contact
- Program Coordinators, how to contact them
- Survey feedback, 2x/yr
- Approved activities
- Mandatory reporting
- Social Media
- ALICE procedures
- Photo Use

## **Parent/Guardian Letter**

A letter will be sent to ALL program participants between Oct 16-18 outlining the following

- ❖ Purpose of the program
- ❖ Meeting location, time, schedule
- ❖ Parent expectations
- ❖ A copy of the Program Expectations