

NKCES Report – June / July 2023

The mission of the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services is to strategically leverage the united voice of the superintendents and public schools as we connect, grow and serve the region with vital services as we: provide targeted support services for education professionals, enhance quality learning for students, model and support innovative instructional leadership practices...through a united voice.

BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

Executive Director Update:

BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT

NKCES Team Meeting, June 5: Executive Director Amy Razor led the monthly team meeting, which focuses on the mission and core values of NKCES! The time spent together building our human capacity is incredible and a highlight each month as our team works together. This month we reflected on a successful year filled with growth, learning, and new partnerships.

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

CARROLL COUNTY

NKCES Superintendent Retreat, June 7-9: Each year NKCES hosts the NKCES Superintendents for an immersive learning and connection experience in Louisville, Kentucky. Executive Director Amy Razor invited special guest and friend, Tamara Lindholm, INspired Leadership trainer to lead a day and a half training. The training was so well received many superintendents followed up with their 1:1 with Tamara and a few superintendents invited her back to Kentucky to lead their leadership retreats. It's always so fulfilling to see districts putting their learning into action!

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

NKCES Deeper Learning Summit, June 14-15: NKCES hosted our first Deeper Learning Summit this summer, which was wildly successful! The location, presenters, and Commissioner Glass all made this event so special. The NKCES Team worked incredibly hard to make this an event to remember and based on the feedback and requests for an event like this in the future, we are thrilled with the outcomes!

GRANT COUNTY

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

Superintendent Webcast, June 20: Executive Director Amy Razor, along with educational leaders across the state, participated in the monthly webcast delivered by Dr. Glass and his staff.

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

YSA Advisory Panel, July 10: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the YSA Advisory Panel meeting at the office of the President at NKU to keep abreast of current events regarding the program to ensure it best meets the needs of students.

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

NKCES Synergy Leadership Retreat, July 12-13: Executive Director Amy Razor and CAO Melody Stacy led an incredible day-and-a-half retreat in Lexington, KY. The time together was spent dreaming of the possibilities, planning for the new year as well as strengthening our relationships. We also revisited the

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

Working Genius model as well as introduced INspired Leadership as Tamara Lindholm will join the entire NKCES in September for our team retreat.

KSBA Conference, July 14: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the KSBA conference, not only as a participant, but as a presenter. Ms. Razor along with Ms. Jessica Pass led a breakout session on

retraining teacher talent. The session was packed with participants as this topic is so timely and critical for the districts in our state.

NKCES Special Board Meeting, July 17: Superintendent Joe Buerkley led the special board meeting to discuss the procurement venture the board would like NKCES to pursue as well as the job title change from Procurement Manager to Procurement Director. The other topic of discussion was the MOU with NKYEC. There was great discussion that ended with positive outcomes.

Tales of Transformation, July 18: Districts around the state prepared deeper learning presentations with experiences that can be replicated in districts, schools, and classrooms. Commissioner Jason Glass and KBE chair, Dr. Lu Young kicked off the event and provided a Q & A session for participants. The day provided highlights from our local districts as well as learning from educators from all cooperatives. All sessions were virtual so that learning could happen from anywhere and participants could grow from colleagues throughout the state. It was an exceptional day of learning and growing statewide!

KDE Education Cooperative Executive Committee Monthly Meeting, July 24: Executive Director Amy Razor along with the other 7 regional education cooperatives' leaders participated in the monthly virtual meeting with KDE to hear from them on current initiatives and discuss any pressing items that are beneficial for the group to hear.

KAEC Meeting, July 24: Following the KDE monthly Education Cooperative, Executive Director Amy Razor hosted a zoom call with the other 7 regional education cooperative directors to stay informed of current events in the state throughout the cooperatives.

OVEC & 2 Revs Performance Based Credit, July 25: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the OVEC training to learn about alternative ways for students to turn experience into credit. Ms. Razor is so excited to bring her learning back to NKCES, particularly RSP, as another way to engage in learning!

NKCES is Growing! We have made exciting hires this month. NKCES is thrilled to welcome Blair Hicks, Emily Giles, Brittney Howell Brian Bentlinger & Mike Wilson. We look forward to the impact they will make for students in Northern Kentucky!

Facilities

Building Update: The large item prioritized for the summer were 2 of the 3 boilers are in need of replacement. We are in the process of replacing the first boiler the week of August 14 and the other will be replaced 6-8 weeks later. RSP has spent the summer placing all the old ceiling tiles that had been patched for years and have finally reached the point of a full replacement. They also prioritized a bathroom refresh with some maintenance work on toilets and fresh paint. RSP also installed ceiling-mounted projectors in all of the classrooms.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

June/July Professional Learning: NKCES supported 138 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, SEL, culture and climate, leadership, and special education, serving 1,425 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium: The 22-23 NKCES PL Consortium ended in April and set dates for the 23-24 school year. These meetings are set to occur in-person from 10am-12pm on Aug 25, Sep 22, Oct 27, Nov 17, Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 22, Apr 26.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 22.23 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium ended in April and set dates for the 23-24 school year. These meetings are set to occur in-person from 8am-930am on Aug 25, Sep 22, Oct 27, Nov 17, Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 22, Apr 26.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 22.23 NKCES DAC Consortium ended in April and set dates for the 23-24 school year. These meetings are set to occur virtually from 10am-11am on Aug 15, Sep 19, Oct 24, Nov 15, Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 19, Apr 16.

Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in collaborative environments focused on collective learning. Coming soon are our 23-24 NKCES PLN Dates.

NKCES is honored to offer a variety of professional learning opportunities this summer. All of them can be found on our [Professional Learning Catalog](#).

Special Education Update:

Mrs. Becky Nixon submitted the 2023-2024 proposal for the IDEA funding for the NKCES Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (SERTAC). On June 9th, a Notice of Approval (NOA) was received from The Kentucky Department of Education’s (KDE), Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL), stating that our IDEA Proposal was approved for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mrs. Misti Carr and Dr. Merissa Waddey led the Don’t Suspend Me! Alternatives to Exclusionary Discipline on June 2nd for a regional district’s middle and high school administrators to support their discipline practices. They collaborated with central office administrators to customize this training to meet the unique, data-driven needs of the district.

Dr. Merissa Waddey facilitated the KY Council for Exceptional Children’s Summer Leadership Retreat here at NKCES June 9-10th. Mrs. Misti Carr also serves on the KYCEC Executive Board and attended this Leadership Retreat and Board meeting.

Mrs. Becky Nixon led the Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (SERTAC) State Directors Meeting on July 11th. The SERTAC Directors planned their August SERTAC Kick-Off that will be held on August 22nd in Shelbyville, KY.

Mrs. Misti Carr and Dr. Merissa Waddey attended the Special Education Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. Misti Carr served as the Kentucky State Team Leader. On July 11th, they (along with their KY team), met with Kentucky Congressional Representatives to advocate for and address special education funding, educator shortages, and school-based mental health. Since meeting with Representative McGarvey’s office, he has become a co-sponsor of the Fully Fund IDEA Act.

Mrs. Nixon, along with a colleague, conducted training on Sunday, July 16th for all new KY Directors of Special Education who are in the first or second year of being a DoSE. The new DoSE received relevant information and resources to assist them in their role. In addition, the new DoSE had an opportunity to network with other new DoSEs from across the state.

Mrs. Nixon attended the KYCASE Executive Board Meeting on Sunday, July 16th. Mrs. Nixon is a member of the KYCASE Board as the SERTAC Liaison.

Mrs. Nixon, along with a few other members of the KYCASE Executive Board, finalized the many months of planning for the KYCASE Summer Institute during the months of June and July. The Institute was held on July 17-18th. National Special Education Attorney, Julie Weatherly, was present on July 17th and presented on topics related to discipline for students with disabilities including HB538, manifestation determination, shortened school day, etc. Members from KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) division were present on July 18th and shared data and information surrounding the State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR), updates to Infinite Campus, etc. Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Brittney Howell and the SERTAC Consultants attended both days of the KYCASE Summer Institute.

Mrs. Emily Borchers hosted the Transition Road Trip on July 27th. She and the participants from our various school districts visited local programs to gain information about services, programs, and/or employment offered to assist with post-secondary transition for students with disabilities.

The SERTAC Team is pleased to welcome Mrs. Brittney Howell as their new Regional Director of Special Education. She and Becky Nixon were able to spend valuable time together during the month of July working on the transition.

Mrs. Becky Nixon would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to connect, grow and serve during her four years at NKCES. She has enjoyed the work and is grateful for the opportunity to make a bigger impact in our region. Northern KY School Districts are amazing! Hope the 2023-2024 school year is your best year yet.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education

Joe Bertucci, Michelle Klein, and Kim Thomson (Boone County Schools) attended The Kennedy Center's Arts Education Conference in June, exploring new resources and opportunities for the region. NKIAE hosted a week-long workshop July 24-28. More than 150 educators from across the region attended up to five days of professional learning in the arts and arts integration. Presenters included KDE's Visual/Performing Arts Academic Consultant, Jessica Greene, and both local and national authors, artists, and educators. In addition, Mr. Bertucci is currently supporting 28 schools participating in the 2023-24 Arts In Mind program.

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention

NKISP has applied and received the Interact for Health Amplifying Youth Voice grant in the amount of \$56,000 to help fund our 2023 NKY Youth Summit in October, and NKCES Mental Health Roundtable in the spring. Christi Jefferds and Abby Beausir presented at the Victory Over Violence FRYSC Conference and have collaborated with St. E, 1N5, and NKY Health Department for Campbell County Middle School's "Camp 21" summer program.

Kentucky Center for Mandarin Language and Culture

KCMLC was represented at two national conferences (National Chinese Language Conference and NAFSA Conference). 2023-2024 professional learning workshop calendar for Chinese teachers, in-person for program participants and virtual sessions will be open free of charge to all NKY World Language teachers. The program continues to develop lesson resources and themed units with language-specific content aligned with KAS for World Languages.

CRRSA

The CRRSA Team worked with 48 educators from 8 districts. Our SEL consultants have worked with our New Teacher and Champions of the Profession cohorts focusing on SEL and Trauma Informed Practices in Daily Instruction. They have also been active leading book studies centered around equity-based trauma informed resources and classroom management. Another highlight is the Science work with Districts to bring High Quality Instructional practices into their classrooms, supporting them on the planning, implementation, and participating in mock classrooms to practice those instruction strategies.

Deeper Learning

Deeper Learning Team worked with 20 districts and over 450 educators. The highlight was a region-wide Deeper Learning conference with over 110 teachers and administrators from 20 districts in our region. The team also presented at KASA conference, New Teacher and Champions of the Profession cohorts, and a district Deeper Learning professional development day.

School-Based Mental Health and Trauma Informed Services in Schools

SBMH and TISS has worked with 19 districts. They have had monthly advisory and steering committee meetings. The TISS team has met individually with 8 districts reviewing their Trauma Informed Plans. The TISS team participated with the Davis County Umbrella Project Mental Health Summit and attended national conferences, and the SBMH team met with the Lt. Governor on Mental Health. The project is underway on creation of a mental health pathway.

Grant Consortium Update:

Upcoming deadlines: [Clean School Bus](#) (due 8/22); [Prichard Committee](#) Kentucky Community Schools Initiative (due 8/25)

Grants pending: Full Service Community Schools; Innovative Approaches to Literacy; Action for Healthy Kids Meals (rural)

Grant awards: Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Fund; Energy Improvements; Interact for Health Youth Voice; Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Grants training: A training day was held July 21. Training is available for individuals in schools or groups at schools on request.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

RSP has been working on building upgrades this summer. Our floors were completed in early July, and our ceilings will be finished in early August, as well as some door/lock work we needed completed with the movement of rooms in the building.

We have filled some of our positions and are continuing to interview and recruit for our remaining openings.

RSP rebranded the names of the three programs to align with the message and services we want our students, families, and district partners to experience.

Aligning with our “RSP” acronym as well, please celebrate our new program names:

- **Restore Program (formerly our Phoenix Program)**
- **Success Academy (formerly our Learning Academy)**
- **Pathways Program (formerly our Challenge Program)**

RSP’s first day back with students is August 16, 2023.