

NKCES Report – March 2024

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

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

NKCES Synergy Meeting, March 4: Each month, the NKCES team pauses and comes together to engage in learning and meaningful conversations. Dr. Razor is leading the mindful moments as part of a series of foundational mindfulness tools that have been integral to NKCES beliefs and contribute to our success. Team members are encouraged to visit Dr. Razor's monthly blog posts, which focus on mindfulness practices in education. This month, I took a deeper dive into the power of mantras.

Finance Meeting: Each month, Dr. Amy Razor meets with Business Manager Mrs. Angie Perkins to keep abreast of finances and planning for future expenses. This month's focus was on salary schedules and budgets for 2024-25.

NKCES Salary Schedule Committee Meeting, March 5: A few board members requested that a committee of superintendents review the NKCES salary schedule. The conversation was productive and led to a more cohesive schedule. The following modifications have been made to the 2024-2025 salary schedule.

- 2% increase with the \$4,000 stipend included in the schedule for certified employees
- 8% increase for classified (2% for paras-8% given previously)
- The business manager position will be changed to a finance director position to align positions and bring salary for the positions more in line with regional pay.

Executive Committee Meeting, March 11: Dr. Razor meets with the Executive Committee each month to review the board agenda. This month, the committee focused on department budgets and salary schedules. We appreciate their commitment and oversight.

Superintendent Webcast, March 12: Dr. Razor and education leaders from across the state joined the monthly webcast to keep abreast of current topics impacting education.

Procurement Meeting, March 13: Dr. Razor met with Procurement Director Mike Wilson to stay informed on the progress made and determine how NKCES will proceed with procurement.

ASCD, March 22-25: Dr. Razor and several NKCES Leaders joined education professionals nationwide to meet ASCD authors and education experts who presented ways to improve students' academic outcomes and provide expertise to help participants with the challenging issues facing schools and districts.

Procurement Meeting, March 26: Dr. Razor met with Procurement Director Mike Wilson to discuss next month's priorities and review the presentation for our board.

Facilities:

Building Update: As our organization grows, we find it more challenging to host larger groups at NKCES as our space is limited. The parking lot is an area of concern.

As part of the Arts In Mind project, an outdoor arts and professional learning center will be installed to meet the needs of learners. The center will be outside between the modulars and the Synergy Room exterior wall. Work has been ongoing, weather permitting, on the stage and surrounding outdoor space. We are expecting to complete it in the coming months.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

February Professional Learning: NKCES supported 96 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during March, serving 1,346 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium, March 22: The 23.24 NKCES PL Consortium continued with a collaborative meeting in March. Topics included [NKCES IDEA/SERTAC Update](#), [NKCES Learning & Empowerment Update](#), and monthly district share-out. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

Title I & Title II Meeting, March 22: The 23.24 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium continued with a collaborative meeting in March. Topics included [Title1Next](#), [Title II Coordinator Responsibilities](#), [Title I Coordinators Responsibilities](#), [Declaration of Participation](#), [FY25 Declaration of Participation Notification](#) (deadline is April 30, 2024 for paperwork submission to KDE), [Consultation Agreement Form](#), Consultation Resources: 1. ESEA Now, article "[Know the Rules: Meaningful Consultation](#)." 2. Question A-9 of [Providing Equitable Services to Eligible Private School Children, Teachers, and Families \(October 2019\)](#). 3. Related resources section in the [Non-Public School Ombudsman webpage](#). [Title II Timeline of Activities](#) (consultation with private schools). [Title I Coordinator's Year at a Glance](#) (Current: Consultation with private schools; Meet with school principals to collect information on the use of funds to support Title I programs for the next funding application; Use available data (e.g., economically disadvantaged, other low-income data or a combination of poverty indicators) to determine eligible schools for Title I services (for next school year). (Upcoming: survey of stakeholders regarding District Parent Engagement Policy; survey of program effectiveness in private schools; evaluate the schoolwide program (SWP) or targeted assistance (TAS) program plan for effectiveness in addressing the major problem areas and, in turn, increasing student achievement). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting, March 19: The 23.24 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in March with a collaborative meeting. Topics included ACT (window 1 scheduled pick-up March 25), KSA (office hours - March 27 @ 10 am), AKSA (TAR training closes March 25, materials ship the week of March 25 or April 1, window 2 - April 15 - May 24, SRD April 15 - May 31), SDRR (test

windows for each level by March 28). ACCESS (data validation March 20 - April 3, score reports online April 26 & paper May 8). K Screen ([form](#) by March 29). EOP (by March 29). KSA ([KSA Testing Items and Times](#), [Released Items](#), [Practice Tests](#), [Scripts](#), [3 - 5 Quality of School Climate & Safety Survey](#), [6-11 Quality of School Climate & Safety Survey](#), KSA Desmos Calculator - [Desmos | Test Practice](#), Link – Click “choose assessment” at the top > KY/KSA. [Technical Manual](#) link to the KDE website: <https://www.education.ky.gov/AA/Reports/Pages/TechManuals.aspx>. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

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

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

Special Education Update:

IDEA Team attends the National Council for Exceptional Children Conference in San Antonio, TX. The team eagerly gathered for the renowned Council for Exceptional Children Conference, a pinnacle event in the field of special education. We immersed ourselves in a wealth of cutting-edge research, innovative strategies, and collaborative discussions. This conference enhanced our professional development and also continued to inspire us to create a positive impact in the lives of exceptional learners and exceptional educators.

Mrs. Amanda Bell assisted Ryle in their Banner Ceremony and Student Summit. On March 1st, Ryle celebrated becoming the 5th high school in Kentucky's history to be awarded the National Banner from Unified Champion Schools and the Special Olympics organization! Their peer tutors, Club U members, and faculty supervisors spoke about the impact that inclusion has had on their personal experiences, school culture, and future goals. Then, on March 22nd, Ryle partnered with East Carter High School to host a Unified Champions Student Summit at NKU! Teachers and students from Beechwood, Simon Kenton, Scott, and Newport attended and everyone walked away with action plans for their next steps in building inclusive school programs!

Mrs. Emily Borchers created a Behavior Based March Madness Bracket. Is your bracket busted? Our bracket is full of classroom behavior resources. The SERTAC team, led by Emily Borchers, created a March Madness bracket specifically centered around evidence-based practices, high-quality instructional resources, and teacher wellness resources.

IDEA Team Members join forces with Learning and Empowerment for Adopt a Classroom at RSP. Kim Snowball, Blair Hicks, Candance Gibson, and Emily Borchers arranged a field trip for their Adopt-A-Class at RSP (Mr. Umberg's and Ms. Dansberry's class). They went on a field trip which included a Tour of NKU and Planetarium Show! The students were treated to lunch for a full immersion experience of college life. This was a great opportunity to expose students to college life and show them the endless possibilities that could be available to them right in our area.

IDEA Team develops this month's Sprout Box! This month's theme was Become an *Inclusive Culture Influencer*! Our March Sprout Box thoughtfully curated gift for educators, brimming with supplies designed to foster acceptance in schools and classrooms. The resources provided will help create an

environment where every student feels valued and respected. One of the North Star Priorities for the IDEA team is building inclusive environments within schools.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE)

In March, Mr. Joe Bertucci supported 30 schools in 17 districts in writing Comprehensive Arts Plans for Cohort 3 of the Arts In Mind program. Mr. Bertucci also led two regional PLN meetings: one for Visual and Performing Arts teachers, and one for teachers integrating the arts into other subjects. In addition, music teachers from 7 districts attended a Modern Band workshop presented in partnership with Music Will, a national nonprofit music program serving public schools. Videos for Season 3 of our *Arts Express* series, supporting instruction in elementary theatre, were filmed. Mr. Bertucci met with representatives from ArtsWave and The Kennedy Center to develop support for community arts partnerships and participated in a focus group providing feedback to KDE on the Draft Kentucky Academic Standards for Visual and Performing Arts.

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP):

This month the NKISP team had their Youth Advisory Board meeting in Williamstown and in Owen County. NKISP conducted in-person focus groups at Pendleton Co HS and participated in the Owen County HS focus group. They hosted their monthly Steering Committee Meeting and attended the KY Prevention Network Meeting, where Christ Jefferds was selected for the Executive Board. Christi also attended a Youth Summit in Indiana.

School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) and Trauma Informed Services in Schools (TISS):

The SBMH & TISS grant work has been focused on assisting districts with the implementation of grant activities along with providing additional guidance to clarify financial processes. Most of the recent work included finishing district meetings with individual districts to assist with providing additional information regarding grant financial processes, planning future mental health professional learning opportunities, collaborating with SPF Grant staff to implement the Youth Advisory Board Pilot Project with four high schools in our region, assisting with the implementation of the upcoming Student Mental Health Roundtables, participation in professional learning opportunities to gain knowledge for grant activities, implementation of a virtual joint grant committee meetings, collaborating to implement the second customized Sprout Box for teachers to get professional learning resources focused on school/classroom culture, developing the application process for the 2023-2024 Regional Youth Advisory Board, & collaborating with others to brainstorm ideas for applying for the new SBMH Grant that has been recently released.

Deeper Learning: The Deeper Learning team presented at the Kentucky Society of Technology in Education conference on the topic of Integrating AI into the Classroom. The team continued individualized work around Portrait of a Learner with 6 district teams. The Deeper Learning team continues to collaborate with various stakeholders for the 2024 NKCES Deeper Learning Summit.

CRRSA: The CRRSA team served 18 districts reaching over 293 educators with PL opportunities to include Family Engagement, Backwards Mapping, Inquiry for Reading, and HQIR. The Youth Mental Health Roundtable brought over 174 middle school and high school students across 10 districts together for a day of learning and collaboration. The CRRSA teams continue to work with Learning Acceleration and Social Emotional Learning task groups across the state on an online catalog, which is projected to be shared this summer.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grants available

- [DFC NEW is](#) due April 17.
- [DFC Competing Continuation \(Year 6+\)](#) due April 17.
- [RFA FY24 McKinney Vento Grant](#) is due April 18.
- [School-Based Mental Health](#) due April 30.

Collaborative Grants Pending

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Waiting for notification, predicted mid-March.
- Strategic Prevention Framework-Partners for Success. Announced September.
- [Transition for youth with autism and/or epilepsy](#)
- [Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Fund Mini-Grant](#)
- [Preschool Quality Partnership](#)

Grant Tips and News

- **Opioid Abatement Funds:** Vicki participated in a webinar about funds available through the state to prevent, treat, and enforce laws about opioids and related substance issues. She recommended we wait a while for that group to solidify and indicate interest in funding schools before reaching out. However, if a group has knowledge and showing interest, please let her know. This is a ton of money to be given out over the next decade or more.
- **April meeting:** moved to April 18 -- Virtual
- **Education Innovation Research:** Michelle Klein reported that a group of co-op administrators are considering this to be a potential project (not out yet, but believed to be coming soon). The project would focus on building a corp of mentors that would be assigned to new teachers. More news to come.
- **International Grants Professionals Day!** This is the day to celebrate all those who make grants possible in your schools. Vicki recognized those in the room, without whom so much would not be happening to build the future of Northern Kentucky. For those who were not able to get to this meeting, please celebrate what you have accomplished through the Grants Consortium: Your work is 1) employing a lot of people; 2) providing resources for students that are critically needed; and 3) preparing children to be the leaders of our communities. Thanks so much for your support and contributions to these processes!

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

- The RSP Standing Committee met on March 26, our last scheduled meeting for the 23-24 school year. The superintendents from the committee have topics to discuss and share with the Superintendent PLC. The committee may schedule an additional meeting.
- RSP is scheduled to begin testing on May 8.

- Our tentative annual Awards and Promotion Ceremony will be held on 5/22/24; details to follow once it is finalized.
- RSP's last day for students is 5/23/24.