



NORTHERN KENTUCKY Education Council

Broader Partnerships

Bolder Goals

Better Data

Bigger Outcomes

ACTION TEAM QUARTERLY UPDATE **Spring 2016**

Northern Kentucky is working collectively to develop and implement effective, innovative strategies that will ensure all youth are ready for college, career and life. The six volunteer Action Teams of the Council facilitate the strategic alignment of educational initiatives and programs that help accomplish regional education goals. Through these teams, education, business and community leaders are working together on measurable strategies that address needs along the pipeline from birth to career.

Action Team 1: Reducing Barriers to Student Learning

Regional Goal: NKY will ensure successful transition for every child and student along the continuum from birth through career

*Co-Chairs: Leshia Lyman, United Way Greater Cincinnati/NKY
Dr. Shelli Wilson, Campbell County School District*

Kindergarten Readiness Subcommittee *United Way of Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky;
Amanda Greenwell*

- Advocated for policy reform to increase access to quality early childhood learning opportunities during the 2016 Kentucky legislative session.
- Me and My School program will expand to 9 new schools this summer (21 schools total), which will entail 4 new districts providing the program (9 districts total). Additionally, Success by 6 is partnering with Boone County Schools to provide a Me and My School family transition kit to 1,483 incoming kindergarten students.

Attendance Subcommittee *Co-Chairs: Mary Burch, Erlanger- Elsmere Independent School District and Monica Remmy*

- Convened partner schools to discuss local efforts in reducing chronic absenteeism, with a focus on success stories from Miles Elementary (Erlanger-Elsmere), Collins Elementary (Boone County) and the Kenton County School District.
- 9 partner schools provided school-level data on chronic absenteeism for students (grades K-3). The average chronic absenteeism rate for the partner schools was 5% for first half of the 2015-16 school year, as compared to 7.11% for the same time period from the prior year (2014-15).

Summer Learning Subcommittee *Co-Chairs: Tammy Weidinger, Brighton Center and Heather Dragan, Dayton Independent School District*

- Convened schools and partner organizations to review identified needs and opportunities

elicited from the previous facilitated discussion on summer learning programs. Determined a need for better alignment between public libraries and local schools to increase offerings for students during the summer months and planned a facilitated discussion between the libraries and schools.

Social-Emotional Wellness Subcommittee Co-chairs: Dr. Brett Zyromski, NKU, Connie Pohlgeers and Dr. Shelli Wilson, Campbell County School District

- Partnered with Dr. Richard Gilman (Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center) to develop a nationally-normed measure for the assessment of the social-emotional wellness of Northern Kentucky students. Hope, Engagement and Well-being constructs will be measured. Contract created and identified school districts will deploy the poll in the early fall of 2016.

Action Team 2: College and Career Readiness

Regional Goal: Academic rigor and relevance of the curricula in NKY P-20 schools will meet student educational career goals and employment needs in the community.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Karen Cheser, Boone County School District

Dr. Christy Petroze, Thomas More College

- Finalized the web-based STEAM asset map survey for distribution to Northern Kentucky schools, non-profit organizations and businesses for data collection on programs related to STEAM; distributed survey link for data collection.
- Developed a strategic business engagement plan for the Kentucky Unbridled Careers platform to increase student career exploration and internships, as well as business engagement in schools; began outreach to businesses for engagement in platform.
- Held the third annual EdCamp NKY on March 26, 2016 at Beechwood High School; over 300 educators participated.
- Continued discussions on how to better promote early college/dual credit programs at local high schools, including holding a regional gathering in the fall to introduce early college/dual credit opportunities and financial resources to high school students and their families.

Action Team 3: Educator Excellence

Regional Goal: Educators in NKY meet or exceed national standards for educator excellence.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District

Dr. Jen Stansbury Koenig, Northern Kentucky University

- Key leaders continued conversation on how to best align Action Team 3 with the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services and the NKU Center for Education Excellence.

Action Team 4: Education Accessibility and Lifelong Learning

Regional Education Goal: NKY has system and outreach programs to make educational opportunities available, accessible and affordable to every community member, no matter what age.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Vicki Berling, Northern Kentucky University

David Schroeder, Kenton County Public Library

- Distributed survey to gain feedback for development of action toolkits on poverty for schools, businesses and community organizations; created structure of action toolkit and identified

resources to include.

- Identified partners who will continue providing poverty simulations to engage community members and increase awareness of the impact of poverty.

Action Team 5: Business Involvement and Service Learning

Regional Goal: NKY is recognized for culture of contribution, through service learning in schools and full engagement of business community in schools.

*Co-Chairs: Dr. Ray Hebert, Thomas More College
Dr. Jean Loftus, Loftus Surgery*

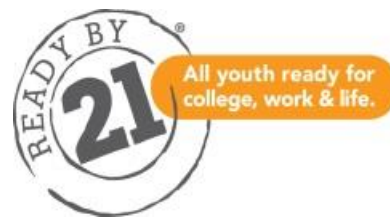
- Developing video for promotion of Business Engagement Toolkit, with a focus on why business engagement in education benefits area businesses.
- Creating a Work Ready Toolkit to replace Work Ethic Diploma for for 2016-17 school year; engaged high school students for feedback on developing soft skills through the Work Ready Toolkit
- Held two business engagement tours (Arnett Elementary, Bellevue High School), with over 30 business and community members attending each tour; began planning for two upcoming business engagement tours in May and identified potential additional tours for Fall 2016.
- Selected 2016 Business Engagement of the Year award winner for the NKY Excellence in Education Celebration dinner.

Action Team 6: Advocacy

Regional Goal: All education institutions in NKY have the financial resources and program alignment necessary to support the needs of the region.

*Co-Chairs: Dr. Anthony Strong, Pendleton County School District
Mike Hammons, Children, Inc.*

- Met regularly to discuss legislative activity with regard to priority issues (pension funding, education funding, preschool access, Senate Bill 1, charter schools, school vouchers, KEES funding for dual credit and other education-related issues).
- Key NKEAT leaders spoke at NKY Legislative Caucus meeting to advocate on behalf of students and educators.
- Continued outreach to NKY legislators on education-related legislation.



The Northern KY Education Council is an agency partner of UWGC. NKY is a Ready by 21 Community.