

5 year Vision: NKCES will be a trusted partner with local school districts and the learning community to research and apply innovative 21st Century practices by leveraging resources, developing strategic alliances and inspiring powerful leadership while providing exemplary customer services to districts, communities & our students.

Executive Director Update

Facility Work on Brick: When I accepted the position at NKCES, one of the initial tasks that the executive board gave to me was to assess the current building issues with the brick work and safety concerns that had been raised which caused the initial alarm and concern for moving. After almost two years of work with Houston Brothers, Ehmet Hayes and NKCES Board, I am pleased to tell you that this project is coming to its completion. As we continue to leverage our resources to best serve the region, you will find some noticeable differences as the tarps that have draped the building for several years are now removed from the roof, the limestone monument is installed and signage is utilized to improve the parking lot with the addition of handicap accessible parking, visitor parking and directional signs to guide our guests to various departments and training rooms. *Thanks for your support in making these enhancements to our collective resource—it is exciting to see the parking lot full of district educators on a regular basis!*

- **Signs and Space:** To better serve our customers visiting onsite, NKCES has added new directional and parking signs. The parking lot was recently paved and has also been improved by adding handicapped and guest parking spots in the front and rear of the building.
- **Enhancements to Training Space:** NKCES has also been working diligently to reorganize our downstairs professional development space. We are adding new tables so that we can accommodate different seating arrangements and also adding organizational items and lighting to continue to improve the quality of the space.



Beechwood
Independent

Bellevue
Independent

Boone County

Bracken County

Campbell
County

Covington
Independent

Dayton
Independent

Erlanger-
Elsmere
Independent

Fort Thomas
Independent

Ludlow
Independent

Newport
Independent

Northern
Kentucky
University

Pendleton
County

Silver Grove
Independent

Southgate
Independent

Walton-Verona
Independent

Williamstown

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Staffing Restructuring Plan: In the transition of staff, NKCES has developed a staffing plan and hired quality and reliable temporary help to support the continued work for our region.

RSP Principal Position: NKCES has posted the Regional School Principal position with the goal to conduct interviews as soon as the posting window has expired. We will be forming a regional committee to complete the interviews and we will be looking for volunteers for this committee.

Intent to Participate: Letters of participation have been emailed to each of our districts. We appreciate the quick response as we have received almost all of the forms back! We look forward to receiving 100% of the region's participation as we continue to connect, grow, and serve NKY together -- all kids, our kids!

Gateway Meeting: A meeting was held with Dr. Fernando Figueroa, president of Gateway Community and Technical College, Dr. Poe, Dr. Strong, and Mrs. Razor to open a dialogue about building career pathways and alignment across schools in our region with the support of Gateway. NKCES is excited about the opportunities that exist within these partnerships across K-12 education and higher education.

#NKY~TheBestPlaceToLearn Committee: This committee continues to meet and has held three sessions. The group shared information at our last board meeting and it was decided by the board that they would like the committee to develop this plan more as it was well received by the group. Included in the discussion will be a regional effort to promote the exceptional learning experiences that are occurring in NKY classrooms and shine a positive light as a region.

We continue to participate with KSBA, KASA, KASS and KEDC in the #LoveKYschools Campaign. Please share your great ideas on twitter and Facebook so that everyone can see what is occurring in NKY. We continue to receive orders for the #loveKYschools t-shirts and look forward to seeing these all over the region.

Toyota Update: The unveiling of the new STEAM school in Boone County was hosted and a regional and statewide crowd filled the audience. The school will have a strong focus on STEAM education as well as innovation. Additionally, this regional school is open to students in both Northern Kentucky Region and Greater Cincinnati. Dr. Detwiler shared with the PL Consortium in April about the opportunities that could exist for curriculum development for PBL.

Thomas More College: President Armstrong has requested information through Christy Petroze about becoming a more active partner with NKCES and sent an "intent to participate" letter. The NKCES looks forward to hearing back from President Armstrong and the opportunities the partnership will bring to the region.

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Creating a Stronger Foundation: After the facility discussion at the February meeting, I met with Joe Wind and he is working with me to create a business strategic plan to share in May. This plan will provide an outline to include:

- improvements to the facility in phases
- possible staffing to enhance support to district and leverage collective resources
- projected costs and possible ways to generate revenue

2017 Retreat Update: This year's NKCES Board Retreat will be Thursday, June 15th and Friday, June 16th. Planning has begun and the location will be Embassy Suites by Hilton Louisville Downtown. The retreat will begin at 9:00 am on June 15th and will conclude by noon on June 16th.

INspired Leadership: INspired Leadership training is available for you and your leadership team on June 7 and 8. It is a one-day training and there will be a total of 40 seats available on a first come-basis. In talking to the PL Consortium we have set a non-member rate and a member rate.

[INspired Leadership Information](#)

- **WHO?** Superintendents and/or your curriculum leader(s)/DoSE
- **WHAT?** The INspired Leadership training will provide tools (positive and negative energy) to be used as a leader to recognize catabolic and anabolic energy in the workplace and promote an empowered collaborative culture (flyer attached). The cost of the training is \$200 (which includes a personalized assessment and full day of training to utilize your personal results). * Feel free to contact Mike Borchers if you would like to know a superintendent's opinion on the benefits of the trainings.
- **WHY?** With the everyday stresses in education, it is more important than ever to protect one of our most important resources--*our human capacity*. This training focuses on the importance of productive energy in the work place and gives you individual results related to your own leadership capacity and tools to enhance your current culture. If the majority of our superintendents are able to attend the one-day training, we will be purposeful in continuing to apply the learning experience in INspired Leadership at the retreat in June.
We are hopeful that we will be able to utilize our "team score" at the retreat and apply the results/strategies in our work.

Regional Special Education Director Update

Transition Forums: One hundred forty high school students in ten school districts participated in our High School Transition Forum at Gateway Community College. Students had the opportunity to tour the Boone campus of Gateway, learn about hot careers in Northern Kentucky, financial planning for

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college, accommodations available to students with disabilities, and more. Sixty-six middle school students from nine districts gathered at Receptions Conference Center to hear Dr. Malcolm Smith's message, *Courage to Care, Showing Empathy for Others*. Students heard Malcolm's personal story of overcoming adversity and were challenged to be leaders by example.

NKCES IDEA Grant Application Update: NKCES received notification from Mrs. Gretta Hylton about changes related to the IDEA Grant Application. Co-ops may or may not experience a funding change. If there is a reduction, it will be no more than 5% of the 2016-2017 allocation. Additionally, the funding formula has undergone some changes. KDE has moved away from funding initiatives and towards a formula that reflects current priorities. The funding is comprised of the traditional base formula, SSIP transformation zones, outcome and compliance indicators of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report and the Commissioner's focus on opportunities and access for all students across the Commonwealth.

Preschool and DoSE Meetings: Both the preschool and DoSE meetings were led this month by Dr. Weber. To identify priority needs and structure for the meetings, a survey was distributed to both groups for feedback. Mrs. Razor and Superintendent Borchers attended the DoSE meeting and shared the vision of the co-op as well as opened a dialogue that promotes communication and collaboration.

Professional Learning Consortium Update

PL Consortium: The professional learning consortium will meet with their committees during the months of June and July.

Mindfulness Workshop: On May 3rd, Cathy Sacco, fine artist and educator in mindfulness, offered a three-hour mindfulness introduction at NKCES. Participants explored the benefits of mindfulness for adults and students through research and neuroscience. Participants also received materials for classroom use.

Novice Reduction: NKCES has partnered with KDE to continue the Novice Reduction workshops. KDE is offering a 'deeper dive' into the strategies that were presented over the course of the 2016-2017 school year. The offerings include three new sessions: two half-day sessions will be offered on May 31st and an additional full day session will be offered on July 13th. Session details and registration can be found on our webpage.

College and Career Readiness Summit: This summit will be held on June 13th & 14th and will focus on promoting a growth mindset, literacy in America, the Ron Clark Academy, and the new accountability system.

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TEACCH: June 20th-22nd. This session is full.

KAGAN Regional 2 Day Training: The regional 2 day KAGAN training will be held at the Ralph Rush Center on June 21st-22nd. There are still 30 spots available.

Para-Educator Training One Day Conference "Explicit Instruction": Para's can chose from June 26-June 29th, to attend this one day conference offered by Mina Hammons. During this conference para-educators will learn how they can assist and apply explicit instruction.

PE and Arts EdCamp: The 2017 PE and Arts EdCamp will be held at North Pointe Elementary School on July 24th. Registration is now OPEN! Details and registration can be found on our webpage.

Early Childhood Symposium: A regional committee met to discuss the focus of the Early Childhood Symposium as well as begin to identify next steps for the event. This event is a regional collaboration led by the DoSE in Bellevue, Tara Wittrock; Dayton Independent, Brittney Howell; and Southgate Independent, Marlene Jones. Additionally, NKEC is supporting this regional event. The Symposium will be on August 25th at the St. Elizabeth Training Center in Boone County. The committee will be meeting in the near future to continue to plan and finalize the details. NKCES will handle registration for the event. It is exciting to be a part of this collaborative, regional experience.

PL Live Binder

A webpage has been added to house resources and provide easy access to our PL Consortium and also PLC members. *Thanks to everyone for building synergy in our region through our PLC process!*

The PL Consortium and Regional PLCs have been added to our webpage!

To view the PL Consortium [Click Here](#)

To view the Regional PLCs [Click Here](#)

PL Consortium LiveBinder

For QUICK access to our PL Consortium LiveBinder [Click Here](#) or scan

You can also access this information by visiting www.nkces.org

Click on *Resources* (top right-hand side of the screen)

Dropdown to *PL Consortium*

Or you can download the FREE LiveBinders App on your mobile device and enter

Binder ID: 2006469



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EL Program Update

As you may be aware, there have recently been concerns about the changes to the scoring of the ACCESS 2.0 test. ACCESS 2.0 is the assessment that the state of Kentucky (and a majority of the states) uses to assess the English Language Proficiency of English Learners. WIDA, the organization that publishes this test, changed the cut scores for the proficiency levels. According to WIDA, the rationale behind this change is to help students “meet the rigorous language demands of college- and career-ready state standards.” The EL Consultants at NKCES have been researching these changes, as well as analyzing the students’ test data, to determine the effects of these changes.

WIDA has stated that “some students’ scores may go down and it may take students longer to exit ELL program support.” After recalculating our students’ 2016 ACCESS scores using the score lookup calculator, we compared the students’ 2016 and 2017 ACCESS scores. While many of the trends are concerning, there are a few that are especially noteworthy.

- 88% of elementary and 85% of middle/high school students’ scores decreased in speaking
- 77% of middle/high school students’ writing and composite scores decreased
- Only 4% of all EL students exited EL services

2016 and 2017 ACCESS 2.0 Data Comparison for EL Students in the NKCES EL Program

ALL ES	Increase	Decrease	Same
Listening	63%	16%	21%
Speaking	12%	88%	0%
Reading	77%	23%	0%
Writing	74%	23%	2%
Composite	60%	33%	7%

ALL MS/HS	Increase	Decrease	Same
Listening	46%	38%	15%
Speaking	8%	85%	8%
Reading	54%	46%	0%
Writing	15%	77%	8%
Composite	23%	77%	0%

In working with students in the districts, we do not find that these decreases in scores accurately represent the students’ progress, especially in the speaking domain. We are working with teachers and administrators throughout the region to determine the best approach for our advocacy efforts with this issue at both the state and national level.

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Additionally, WIDA is changing the EL entrance exam for students in grades 1-12 from the W-APT to an online screener. We are working with KDE to determine how to best implement this testing throughout the districts in our program.

In our end of year meetings with the Title III coordinators, we are conducting a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of our EL Program and the services that we provide to districts. We are also seeking input as we plan to offer SIOP training to districts during the 2017-18 school year. As always, we welcome your input and appreciate the opportunity to serve your districts.

Grant Consortium Update

Grant Reports from Districts

Congratulations to Williamstown Schools, who received \$17,000, to Bracken County Schools, who received \$4,000 from the Durr Foundation's Rural Technology grants and to Silver Grove Schools, who received \$5,000 from KDE's Race to the Top funds to support Born Learning Academy. Paradise Forbes described Williamstown's use of visual reality to show historical views of agriculture programs. She mentioned an app called "RoundMe" they use to create the visual reality experiences. Newport is working on six Learning Links grants, some funding from the preschool summit through the governor's office, and a Tier 3 preschool grant from KDE. Erlanger-Elsmere will receive funding from United Way to support Me and My School. Scripps Howard Foundation awarded \$25,000 to Dayton schools for their Readers are Leaders program, which will expand their Book-a-Week program to early learners.

Grants Status

OJJDP Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative: Submitted for \$1.25 million over 3 years to increase academic success, decrease behavior referrals, and decrease juvenile delinquency. Covington, Newport, Regional Schools Programs, and Boone County are participating districts. Funding would build shared infrastructures, staff, and training.

Day of Service: Submitted for \$150,000 a year for three years. If awarded, 20 schools will receive \$5,200 and other incentives to create and implement service projects that build from education provided about Martin Luther King and the Unfreedoms (hunger, genocide, illiteracy, slavery, racism, and tyranny). A culminating project would take place on MLK day at the Freedom Center. To be announced in May.

Prevention of Opioid Misuse in Women: Submitted by the Health Department, this will feature intergenerational activities for adolescent girls (10-17) and women 50+ years old. We supported the substance abuse prevention coalitions through a letter of support for this grant.

Aetna Foundation: Erlanger-Elsmere applied to create a walking trail that would be central to a number of community and school activities.

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Kentucky Health Department/Substance Abuse Prevention: Erlanger-Elsmere applied to conduct evidence-based programming in elementary schools and continue support for their counselors. They had been invited by the health department to apply, subsequent to superintendent's participation in a health department survey and a presentation in Elizabethtown.

Professional Development for Arts Educators: Planning is underway for a regional proposal to be submitted May 30. \$375,000 a year for four years.

Preschool Partnership, Tier 2 and 3: Several districts are working on proposals.

Easton Foundation: Beechwood is working on a proposal for a regional archery Olympic training center. Funding is in the \$500,000 range to train athletes in archery. Beechwood's superintendent will speak to the Grants Consortium in May about international grants.

Two IES Research Practitioner Partnerships have been submitted: one to measure success of NKCES PLCs and one for Erlanger-Elsmere Computer Science for All with NKU as the applicant.

State Incentive Grants for Priority and Focus Schools: Discussion revolved around whether it is worth a Focus School applying. Consensus was that priority schools are best candidates to apply.

Grant News

DreamFest presentation: Vicki presented to a group of very motivated students and was impressed with their commitment.

ESSC: The NKCES Counseling grant is wrapping up. The Erlanger Counseling grant will apply for a no-cost extension to support some of the work for another year.

Professional School Counseling Journal article: The counselors at Lindeman and Miles studied a college and career readiness activity they did within the ESSC grant and it is published in the school counseling professional journal!

St. Elizabeth contact: Vicki met with Ami Brown, the grant writer for St. Elizabeth's foundation. They are expressing interest in outreach to substance abuse prevention coalitions.

Contact with SRI/REL: Vicki and Kim Weber of NKCES had a phone meeting with the new holders of the REL contract to introduce them to Northern Kentucky. They are looking for some short-term research projects. The group suggested:

- Early Learning projects' collaboration between schools and community preschools
- Beechwood (Chinese) and Boone County (Japanese) language programs and implementation methods.

Executive Director's Report – May 2017

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Vicki will share these ideas with the REL folks and share any info with the group. Amy Razor noted our motivation to get to know these researchers so they will be sure to think of Northern Kentucky when they are working on projects.

Continuum of Care Regional Funding and Compliance committee: Vicki was invited to become a member of this committee and will share information as it arises.

Professional Learning Opportunity: Diane Hatfield mentioned a conference for teachers to be held September 26/27. It will be a collaboration of CINSAM, NKU, UC and the STEM Collaborative.