

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

Bellevue
Independent

Boone County

Bracken County

Campbell County

Covington
Independent

Dayton
Independent

Erlanger-Elsmere
Independent

Fort Thomas
Independent

Kenton County

Ludlow
Independent

Newport
Independent

Northern Kentucky
University

Pendleton County

Southgate
Independent

Walton-Verona
Independent

Williamstown
Independent

K TECH, January 9 : Executive Director Amy Razor invited the K-tech committee to a meeting with Andrew Sezonov. The stakeholders in attendance were Jamie Parsons, Martha Setters, Amanda Johanneman, Dr. Karen Cheser, Amy Razor and Jessica Faust. This group met with Ervin Dimeny, Saint Elizabeth, NKY Chamber and Andrew Sezonov with IWSI America to learn more about how Mr. Sezonov has helped other school communities work with business to successfully launch a success program with meaningful outcomes. The meeting was productive and brought forth additional questions to consider.

PL Consortium, January 17: Executive Director Razor attended the meeting to keep up-to-date on current topics and learn about the needs of our districts in the region, as well as to share work being down at NKCES as well as at the state level. The PL Consortium requested that Mrs. Razor reach out to the KDE in regard to the standards training for our region to request information on the content and a change of dates. This information has been communicated to the districts.

Northern Kentucky University Dean Search Committee Meeting, January 22:

Executive Director Razor was selected to serve on the Dean's search committee. The committee has narrowed the candidates down to 4 final interviews. The process to this point has been a wonderful experience and an opportunity to share the importance of regional partnerships to support districts and the need to strengthen the teacher pipeline.

KASA Kentucky Women in Education Leadership (KWEL), January 23-24: Executive Director Razor was asked to lead a session for women in leadership who had been nominated and chosen to participate in this cohort on a topic of her choice. Ms. Razor chose to talk about Thriving as a Leader, using the 10 lessons of the bamboo plant. Ms. Razor's session was very well received, so much that leaders from across the state are reaching out to request materials or Ms. Razor to lead this session for their staff members.

State Cooperative Directors Monthly Skype Meeting: Deputy Commissioner Amanda Ellis and Interim Commissioner Kevin Brown held the monthly statewide call to share events & state initiatives and to hear from each of the cooperative directors regarding their specific regional initiatives, along with questions/concerns.

NKCES Advocacy Meeting, January 27: Our region’s superintendents gathered at NKCES to discuss the recent HB110. As Advocacy Lead, Superintendent Mike Borchers guided the conversation and offered suggestions on how to move forward so a united voice was maintained as the group keeps our community informed of the facts and true devastation this bill will have on an already underfunded public education system.

Advocacy Deployment Meeting, January 28: Executive Director Razor, Superintendent Borchers, and Dr. Robb Smith met in Bellevue to discuss and talk through the notes taken at the initial advocacy meeting. The goal of this meeting was to condense the information down to a flyer that could be distributed and used on social media outlets. Candace Gibson was instrumental, lending her expertise and supporting the creation of the document.

KASA Drive-In Day at the Capitol, January 29: Executive Director Razor, along with many Superintendents from our region attended this event to ensure Legislators know they oppose SB110 and HB350. KASA did a wonderful job organizing this event. It was clear by the turnout that Public Education was a big topic of discussion and one that will remain a top priority throughout this legislative session.

Northern Kentucky University Dean Search Committee Meeting, January 30: Executive Director Razor attended the final candidate interviews and also the final meeting with the provost to give input for the final candidate.

Northern Kentucky University Dean Search Committee Meeting, January 31: Executive Director Razor attended the final decision making committee meeting with the goal to name the next Dean. The provost will share the input with the President of NKU and they will begin negotiations and the process to recruit a dean.

Special Education Update:

The regional IEP task group has completed their work. They have developed sample IEP goals in the area of reading, writing, math, and behavior for elementary and secondary students with low incidence and high incidence disabilities. Along with sample IEP goals are samples of Specially Designed Instruction and Supplementary Aids and Services. They have created a [webpage](#) where teachers can access these examples. The task group will be conducting a training on March 21st. [Click here](#) for registration.

OCR and OSERS released a guidance webinar (in January) regarding the use of restraint and seclusion. The title of the webinar is [Students with Disabilities and the Use of Restraint and Seclusion in K-12 Public Schools](#). This webinar is intended to provide technical assistance to both support children with disabilities and to support the needs of those within the school systems serving students. The webinar includes information on requirements of Section 504 and IDEA and implementing positive behavior supports and interventions with fidelity in a students least restrictive environment, using restraint and seclusion data to inform child find obligations for students not yet identified as having a disability and guidance on the Civil Rights Data Collection. The guidance discusses providing professional development and coaching on preventive strategies. It specifically states this should not be “one-shot presentations”

but rather ongoing and that learning strategies such as de-escalation and redirection “takes time to master.”

The last two slides of the webinar provide resources to assist districts. One particular resource titled [*Supporting and Responding to Behavior*](#) provides descriptions of evidence based strategies and practices for teachers that help to promote, respond, and support classroom behavior. This document gives elementary and secondary examples along with non-examples.

The OSEEL webinar in January was titled [*Dispute Resolution in Special Education*](#). This webinar focused on the different dispute resolution options available in KY, the process to access them, and data surrounding the different options. Examples of data shared include... [*2018-2019 Due Process Hearings*](#), [*Total Number of Complaints Filed in KY*](#), [*Complaints by Disability Category*](#), [*2018-2019 Number of Complaints by Special Education Cooperatives*](#), etc.

Also, on this webinar is [*Letter to Anonymous*](#) that was written on October 23, 2019. This letter gives guidance regarding the provision of compensatory education after a family moves to a different state. This letter basically states if a state has ordered compensatory education that can be reasonably implemented in a new state (and the parent has not rejected comp ed) then the compensatory education is implemented in the new state.

Lastly, I have been in communications with Anderson County RTC regarding working collaboratively with NKCES to host trainings at NKCES. The director has agreed to collaborate and partner with us. This is great news, as this will prevent our preschool staff from traveling to Frankfort to receive these trainings.

OVR Update

NKCES is hosting the following learning opportunities for OVR eligible high school students:

April 16: “Gateway to the Future” College Fair Expo Audience: OVR eligible high school students on diploma track. Involvement Fair - Students will learn about programs, services, admissions, and connect with students attending Gateway. Keynote Presentation - Rohan Murphy

April 22: Tour of Toyota Manufacturing: Georgetown, KY: Audience: As spots are limited, this day long experience is specifically for students with an expressed interest in careers in the automotive industry. OVR eligible high school students on diploma track or alternative assessment may register.

April 29: Transition Fair at Receptions: Audience: OVR eligible high school students and their families. Students on diploma track and alternative assessment welcome. Vendors will include a mix of local businesses, transition/rehabilitation programs, postsecondary institutions, apprenticeship programs, and family resources. Following the fair, participants may choose one of two keynote presentations.

Professional Learning (PL) Update

January Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 80 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of January, serving 812 educators.

PL Consortium: The PL Consortium meets monthly on the third Friday of each month. The Consortium met on January 17 and discussion topics included the Horizon Fund grant application, school counselor list for St. Elizabeth, professional learning opportunities, and KDE Standards training.

Taxonomy of Intensive Interventions: NKCES leads the state in bringing the first regional Professional Learning session focusing on the Taxonomy of Intensive Interventions. There was a full house as teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators attended our first session. Participants engaged in an overview of all seven dimensions as well as three breakout sessions to dig deeper into behavior and Explicit Instruction. We will be offering this session again in the early summer with an additional administrator breakout session. Check out some of the great feedback from our participants: *“I L-O-V-E the taxonomy and using that to make adjustments to the interventions. It will be such a helpful tool! I didn’t know that there were seven dimensions to consider when choosing an effective intervention. Changing how I structure my RTI!”*

Conceptual Building Blocks Multiplication & Division Module: This was a huge success as teachers from across the region shared their strengths and struggles especially with using manipulatives in the classroom. Here are just a few comments teacher gave on the feedback form: *“Rethink my entire math curriculum, Change the way I teach, Teach math in a different way, Use manipulatives daily, Make concrete math more accessible to all of my students, Step away from our math series and focus on the standards in a more concrete way, Go back and make teaching more concrete, Revamp the way I use manipulatives in class, Be a better coach! My toolbox is expanded!”* Everyone engaged in productive struggle and that in itself validated the two days of deep learning

School Counselors PLN: On January 7, 15 school counselors discussed current areas of expertise and needs for training and shared problem-solving among the group. They also planned for the March 3 PLN with Dr. Damien Sweeney, KDE’s head of school counseling. They noted the meeting will be longer than usual (from 9:30 to noon) to allow them to explore issues of concern and interest with Dr. Sweeney and to explore KDE counseling standards.

Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): Our PLNs in January included: Instructional Coaches, Physical Education, NKAGE, Visual and Performing Arts, School Counselors; Media Specialists and Homeless Coordinators. PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

RSP Valentine’s lunch is approaching on 2/11/20.

We have a yoga teacher that has agreed to come in and provide yoga 1x a week for our students to fulfill our yoga grant that we received.

Our next RAP (Regional Alternative Program) meeting is scheduled on February 26th from 4:00-5:30pm, and it will be hosted at TLC in Covington; please share out with any staff in an alternative program!

We are already starting drafts for testing time, we will keep everyone posted, thank you to districts and staff from NKCES who have assisted us in the past when needed.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

The EL Consultants have been administering the ACCESS test to the EL students in our program. We are scheduled to complete all makeup testing before the testing window ends on February 7th. We appreciate the collaboration and cooperation among our districts which made testing go as smoothly as possible.

We are excited to be resuming our regular schedule of working with students and teachers in districts, and are looking forward to our upcoming trainings. We are offering a two-part training, Differentiation for English Learners, from 4-5:30 on February 24th and March 9th, and are co-hosting the EL PLN on February 28th.

NKY Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

NKIAE led professional learning on January 11 for teachers planning current and future arts-integrated units. NKIAE also hosted a Twitter Chat on January 14 and hosted 21 teachers at the Contemporary Arts Center Educator Workshop on January 25.

In January, Arts Integration Manager Joe Bertucci observed collaborative, arts-integrated units at Ockerman Elementary, Regional School Programs, Boone County High School, and Collins Elementary. Mr. Bertucci also attended unit-planning meetings at Newport High School, Boone County High School, and Tichenor Middle School.

NKIAE is now accepting applications for the 2020-21 Program: Integrating the Arts with Science. Previous participants have the option to continue their learning in arts integration with ELA and math. Information has been sent to principals of eligible schools. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the program is available to members of the NKCES Grants Consortium with 50% or higher FRL rates.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grant Status

Strategic Prevention Framework: In implementation (Erlanger-Elsmere). Districts working on proposals and a regional proposal for this year.

NKY ASAP – Awarded! RSP is working on implementing yoga and arts integration.

Horizon Fund -- Letter of intent has been submitted.

Project Prevent – In implementation with numerous community partners (Erlanger-Elsmere and Covington)

Innovative Approaches to Literacy: In implementation

District/schools grants submitted and pending include: David Herriman Fund at Greater Cincinnati Foundation; Striving Readers Supplement; Andrew Lloyd Webber Classroom Resources; 21st CCLC; and KDE Academic Standards (KAS) Implementation Professional Learning Mini grant.

Next meeting: February 5, 8:30 am, NKCES first floor meeting room