

## NKCES Report – April 2020

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

*Throughout COVID-19, Executive Director Razor has worked with the NKCES to brainstorm and reinvent our business design to best deliver services to the districts. The team has responded in great ways and the districts have been extremely receptive. Executive Director Razor is also connecting and supporting districts virtually (telephone conversations and conference calls) through ad hoc meetings, to ensure the region stays informed, responsive, and diligent on the COVID-19 pandemic our state is experiencing. The list below is an effort to capture the breadth of conversations of many local and state entities she has been in contact with over the last several weeks:*

- NKCES Team
- The Regional School Program
- NKCES Superintendents, individually and as a group
- State Cooperative Directors
- State Task Force Group - COVID-19
- KDE, Amanda Ellis
- Education Commissioner Conference Calls
- Community Partners

*The following are examples of ways in which the NKCES Team has prepared and responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic and NTI instructional needs:*

### Connect:

- Mrs. Hatfield facilitated the Title I & Title II meeting and PL Consortium meetings through a virtual format on April 17 as we continue to connect to meet the needs of the region.
- Mrs. Hatfield coordinated the The NKY Homeless Educators virtual meeting on April 16 to connect and support each other in meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness.
- Mrs. Hatfield joined the gifted educators for their virtual meetings throughout the month of April to connect and support each other in meeting the needs of gifted students during NTI.
- Mrs. Hatfield facilitated the Media Specialists PLN meeting on April 29 as these educators networked and connected.
- On April 30, Instructional Coaches met virtually to share strategies for NTI.
- The NKY EL PLN hosted an impromptu meeting on March 20th to discuss ways to network to support students and teachers with virtual learning and other emergent needs.
- Mr. Bertucci and Vicki Dansberry met with evaluator Joan Ferrante of NKU and financial analyst Vikki Wofford of Ludlow Independent Schools to prepare the Annual Performance Report for our Professional Development for Arts Educators Grant.

- Individual Grants Consortium districts met virtually with Vicki Dansberry to work on Drug Free Communities Support Program grants.

- Project Prevent had weekly meetings with Vicki Dansberry to design and integrate processes and procedures for both education and financial management goals.
- Vicki Dansberry met with Strategic Prevention Framework Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup to discuss changes needed due to the current education environment.
- Vicki Dansberry connected with a representative of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, who is eager to work with more Northern Kentucky Schools and will participate in the May 6 virtual meeting with grants representatives.
- The Grants Consortium met with all district representatives to share information about currently available grants and discuss goals in the current education environment for grants in implementation as well as new applications.
- RSP continues to connect with our district partners and are in fluid connection with district partners and families through this transition.
- Mrs. Turner, with Ms. Duffy in Covington, hosted the last Regional Alternative Program meeting for this school year through a virtual conference. This allowed the largest attendance we have ever hosted to date. During this call, we decided to have an added meeting during the summer to collaborate on returning to school and other ideas. This call will be virtual as well, and we discussed having some form of virtual avenue to participate in future meetings to allow for growth in participation and increased collaboration.
- Mrs. Nixon has been on many conference calls with other state cooperative special education directors and staff from OSEEL regarding NTI as it relates to students with disabilities. We have discussed various ways to provide guidance and assistance in order to support districts across the state during this pandemic. The next guidance that the state is working on is surrounding compensatory education.
- Mrs. Nixon has connected and supported by hosting meetings virtually via Zoom, phone calls, texts, emails and WhatsApp. In addition, Mrs. Nixon has helped to consolidate resources so DoSEs have up-to-date information/resources in one location.
- Mrs. Nixon has worked with KYCASE on behalf of CASE to advocate for targeted and short term flexibilities in three main areas: Timelines, Procedural Conditions, and Fiscal Management during COVID-19.
- The EL Program, in conjunction with Nichole Neuhard at NKCES, has co-hosted 6 EL PLN meetings in April to support the evolving needs of EL teachers during NTI.

### **Grow:**

- NKCES Professional Online Platform has proudly served more than 6000 educators from NKY and beyond. Both certified and classified trainings can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/nkcesonlinetraining>
- RSP staff continue to grow in our abilities to think like there is “no box” and move our village forward. Staff additionally continue to utilize the platform created by NKCES for professional growth during this time.
- Several RSP staff will be trained virtually this summer to provide yoga and mindfulness in the classroom next school year. This certification is funded through part of a grant we received.
- RSP was officially notified that we were awarded as an Alternative Program of Distinction by KDE.
- Vicki Dansberry is learning new management skills and funders’ requirements from the National Grants Management Association and US Office of Management and Budget. She transferred registration for the virtual NGMA conference, now occurring May 18-20.
- Vicki Dansberry continued to work with project coordinators and Washington program managers to find new ways to meet district needs through current grant funding.
- The Kentucky chapter of Grants Professionals Association sponsored a virtual funders’ panel and Vicki Dansberry participated to learn about potential funding changes in the COVID-19 era.

- Mr. Bertucci held several planning meetings with our NKIAE Steering Committee to plan both in-person and virtual options for our 2020 Arts Integration Workshop in July. There are currently 18 teams from 17 schools in 10 districts registered for 4 days of Professional Learning integrating the arts with science.
- Mr. Bertucci planned a full day of professional development for all visual and performing arts teachers in our region: [VPA Summer Academy](#).
- IDEA staff has partnered with KY-SPIN and KATC. Dr. Clarke was a featured guest on a KY-SPIN episode that focused on a session for parents on implementation of IEP's during NTI. Our regional KATC consultant, Sarah Bays, joined Dr. Clarke for a low incidence PLC to share strategies to support students with autism during NTI.

### Serve:

- Consultants at NKCES continue to compile what is currently free and available digitally that is useful for educators as districts deliver instruction to our students during NTI. [Non-Traditional Instruction \(NTI\) Resources](#) site includes more than 275 links across 10 topic areas.
- NKCES facilitated a virtual meeting on April 30 with Todd Davis and Jenny Ray regarding Updating CEPs for Principal Evaluation.
- NKCES consultants provided a variety of virtual trainings during the month of April including FBA to BIP: Analysis and Positive Behavior Change, which will be offered again in May due to popular demand.
- Special Education Consultants have partnered with the EL Consultants to provide Navigating the Intersection of English Learner and Disability. This training covered the essentials of MTSS and pre-referral interventions, ESSA and IDEA requirements, and overcoming barriers to data collection for EL students. This training will be offered again in July due to popular demand.
- The EL Consultants are continuing to provide services and support to EL students, teachers, and administrators by phone, email, and via teleconferencing.
- RSP staff continue to serve students through NTI days in various ways, learning new ways every day to reach our students and families. (phone calls, emails, video calls)
- Vicki Dansberry is consulting with Washington project officers in several agencies about changes allowable and required in current grants due to changes in the education environment.
- Both Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants (due May 1) and the Professional Development for Arts Educators grant (due May 8) have received instructions for completing their Interim Reports for the US Dept of Education. Vicki Dansberry is working with project officers in Washington to establish reporting mechanisms and with evaluators and project coordinators to develop data analysis and reporting for these projects, especially given that many measures (K-PREP, oral language measures for preschool, behavior referrals, etc.) are not available for this year. The report for Project Prevent is awaiting guidance from Washington.
- Congratulations to Grandview Elementary, Covington Partners (2), Fort Wright Elementary (2), and Newport High and Newport Intermediate Schools, who will receive Summertime Kids grant awards from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. This award came with a well-crafted list of ways to deal with the current education environment.
- Vicki Dansberry provided resources to two districts for Drug Free Communities proposals and negotiated with a group wanting to use KIP data for research.
- Mrs. Nixon is continuing to meet regularly with Special Education Consultants via Zoom to plan and create online or virtual PD to support districts. Several new trainings have been created and there are several more in the works. We currently have over 6,000 participants. This number continues to grow rapidly. We now have a web page dedicated to housing these trainings. There

are more than 30 online modules that focus on Foundations of Literacy, Explicit Instruction, Evidence Based Behavior Strategies, Trauma Informed Care and Special Education Supports for classified staff. This new platform has allowed us to serve educators across the region, state and nation. Click [here](#) to view the web page.

- The IEP workgroup hosted a virtual training on how to do SDI during NTI. The session quickly filled with 100 registrants. As a result, the session was recorded and will be housed on our online learning web page.
- Mrs. Nixon and the special education consultants, along with the other special education cooperatives, have partnered with OSEEL to provide weekly special education webcasts for DoSE. These webcasts occur each Friday and are recorded so that DoSEs can share with teachers. The focus of the webcasts are on how to do SDI and progress monitoring during NTI. The next webcast will focus on behavior. In addition, the special education consultants have partnered with KDE and HDI to develop alternate assessment guidance based on the revised KY Academic Standards.
- Mr. Bertucci supported visual and performing arts teachers throughout the region with various resources during non-traditional instruction.

### **Business:**

#### **State Superintendent Conference Calls with Interim Commissioner Brown and Governor Beshear:**

**April 4**

**April 5**

**April 7**

**April 14**

**April 20**

**April 23**

**April 28**

#### **State Education Continuation Task Force Conference Calls:**

**April 6**

**April 21**

**Regional School Program Advisory Board Meeting, April 14:** Executive Director Razor attended this meeting to stay informed and up-to-date on NTI and end of year activities. RSP was the recipient of the 2019 Alternative School of Distinction Award. This is a huge accomplishment and one to be celebrated. Principal Turner and her staff work extremely hard to support and educate their students.

**Dr. Tom Guskey, April 17:** Executive Director Razor connected with Dr. Guskey to bring his knowledge and expertise regarding grading in a pandemic, to the NKY Region. NKCES held a Zoom Meeting with more than 60 educators. Executive Director Razor led Dr. Guskey through a Q&A format conversation which answered many questions the region had. Dr. Guseky has offered to engage in a second conversation to provide more prescriptive solutions later in the summer.

**Grants Consortium Meeting, May 6:** will be virtual, 8:30 am. Link will be sent to the Grants Consortium list.