

NKCES Report – June/July 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 NKCES to brainstorm and reinvent our business design to best deliver services to the districts. The team has responded in beautiful ways to the challenges 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 nation 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 board
- State Cooperative Directors
- State Task Force Group - COVID-19
- KDE, Amanda Ellis
- Education Commissioner Conference Calls
- Community Partners
- NCERT

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 through a virtual format on June 5 to continue the discussion regarding the CARES funding as to the requirements related to equitable sharing of these funds with private schools.
 - Mr. Bertucci brought together 70 educators from 10 districts in the NKIAE virtual Arts Integration Workshop, July 20-23. Teachers met virtually both within their school teams and with teachers across the region, making vertical and cross-curricular connections. Sessions were led by NKCES staff and partners, along with teaching artists and education directors from local arts organizations.
 - All NKCES Grants Consortium Districts will be able to participate in a new Strategic Prevention Frameworks grant funded project to promote training and support for Trauma Informed Care, Substance Abuse Prevention, and related needs. This grant is for \$300,000 a year for five years, a total grant of \$1.5 million from SAMHSA/US Department of Health and Human Services.
 - RSP continues to connect with our district partners and is in fluid connection with district partners and families through this transition.
 - Mrs. Turner has been collaborating with DOR(Dayton) and other partnering districts in regards to the reopening plan for RSP.
- RSP held a summer virtual Regional Alternative Program meeting on June 30th; collaborating with other programs in the state.

- Mrs. Nixon continues to meet with other state cooperative special education directors and staff from OSEEL regarding NTI as it relates to students with disabilities.
- Mrs. Nixon continues to support DoSEs by hosting meetings virtually via Zoom, phone calls, texts, emails and WhatsApp.
- Mrs. Nixon held a virtual meeting with the Northern KY DoSEs to discuss the two latest guidance documents released by OSEEL.
- Mrs. Nixon held a virtual meeting with the Northern KY Preschool Coordinators to discuss the two latest guidance documents released by OSEEL and collaborated/problem solved as it relates to reopening preschool classrooms.
- Mrs. Nixon, with a couple of her KYCASE colleagues, trained the new Directors of Special Education across the state. They trained 10 first year DoSE's and 9 second year DoSEs.
- Heather Ralphes presented at KYGoDigital with Alyona Greene about ways to support English Learners and their families.
- Dr. Merissa Waddey, Heather Ralphes, and Daniele Novak presented the session "Navigating the Intersection of English Learner and Disability."

Grow:

- NKCES Professional Online Platform has proudly served more than 14,628 educators as of July 17 from NKY and beyond since the inception of this platform. Both certified and classified trainings can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/nkcesonlinetraining>
- During the months of June NKCES sponsored 25 activities serving 794 educators.
- Mrs. Hatfield connected with Kim Strobel to provide a free virtual event to promote Educator Happiness and Well-Being on July 16 for educators across the region.
- Mrs. Hatfield connected with Kinolved to provide Effective and Equitable Attendance/Engagement Strategies for the Three Coronavirus Back-to-School Scenarios virtual event on July 29 for educators across the region..
- NKCES team members collaborated to revise the Connect Grow Serve log.
- RSP welcomes Misti Carr as the Student Services Coordinator. Ms. Carr and Ms. Turner have been working on fall plans for RSP and participating in several virtual trainings and conferences as they plan.
- 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.
- Mr. Bertucci led the NKIAE virtual workshop, providing professional learning in arts integration, modeling virtual learning tools, and guiding 16 teams of teachers in developing original units integrating the arts with science.
- Mr. Bertucci collaborated with Vicki Dansberry to write and submit a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Arts in support of continued professional learning in arts integration for all Grants Consortium districts.
- IDEA Consultants participated in Bob Pike training specific to online delivery. They are committed to developing quality and engaging online trainings.
- IDEA Consultants launched the Instructional Assistant online virtual training which consists of nine one-hour training sessions.
- IDEA Consultants launched SDI/SAS for Teachers and Administrators.
- Misti Carr launched the Data Collection for Behavior which is an online training module.
- Dr. Clarke launched Administrator IEP Quick Tips which is an online training module.
- Dr. Clarke worked with the state Low Incidence (LI) task group to create an overview training to support low incidence teachers in understanding the new state Alternate Assessment targets. This training was shared in an online format with MSD teachers in our region.

- Dr. Clarke and Amelia Brown revised the Foundations for Learning to Read training to support students with low incidence disabilities and hosted a virtual training on July 23. Barbara Weitlisbach and Dr. Clarke created a new virtual training focusing on supporting LI teaching teams that was offered on July 28.
- NKCES, in partnership with KATC, KSB and KSD, now has 60-plus online modules.

Serve:

- Consultants at NKCES continue to compile lists of 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.
- Mrs. Hatfield continues to meet regularly with NKCES staff serving Arts and Grants initiatives.
- Mrs. Hatfield welcomed Shellie Baker, the new NKY K-Tech Program Coordinator to NKCES and will continue to support her in this position.
- Mrs. Hatfield continues to support Linda Lane and the OVR grant initiatives.
- RSP's first day of school has been amended to 8/25/20. Therapeutic and administrative staff are working with families to connect through United Way to assist families who may be in need for internet access.
- Continuation Award notices have been received for Innovative Approaches to Literacy in seven districts, with Bellevue and Erlanger-Elsmere serving as fiscal agents. The continuation awards totaled more than \$1.5 million for 2020-2021, the final year of that three year project.
- Vicki Dansberry continued to provide project direction for the existing Strategic Prevention Framework (Erlanger Elsmere), Project Prevent (Erlanger Elsmere and Covington), Professional Development for Arts Educators (NKIAE), and both Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant projects (Bellevue and Erlanger Elsmere -- serving Dayton, Southgate, Williamstown, Pendleton County, and Bracken County) to implement the projects, discuss changes needed due to the current education environment, and meet Federal requirements. She will also serve in the project director role for the new Strategic Prevention Framework grant, bringing together support for all Grants Consortium districts.
- Vicki Dansberry negotiated extensions for RSP grants from last year that required students in classrooms from NKYSASP and reported to the funder of PNC Charitable Trust grant from last year.
- 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. They realized they have received more than \$11 million in grants this year with a total of over \$64,000,000 since 2010.
- 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.
- Mrs. Nixon is continuing to meet regularly with Special Education Consultants via Zoom to plan and create online or virtual PD to support districts.
- Mrs. Nixon and Dr. Laura Clarke held two ARC Chair Trainings virtually. One for new ARC Chairs and one ARC Refresher Training.
- Dr. Clarke has launched New Teacher training for MSD/LBD new teachers for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.
- Dr. Laura Clarke hosted a virtual mini-conference on June 25 for low incidence teachers as part of her work with the Council for Exceptional Children's Complex and Chronic Conditions division.
- Dr. Laura Clarke presented sessions in KyGoDigital's 2-day summer virtual conference on July 21-22.

- Mrs. Nixon, Dr. Clarke and Dr. Wadley have been serving the region by advocating for students with disabilities through CEC's Special Education Legislative Summit.
- Daniele Novak submitted the Title III Application for the EL Program districts.

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

June 2

June 9

June 16

June 23

June 30

July 14

July 21

State Education Continuation Task Force Conference Calls:

June 1

June 15

June 29

July 13

July 27

Virtual Connection for NTI: NKCES Superintendents

June 4

June 18

June 25

July 2

July 9

July 16

July 23

K Tech Program Coordinator Interviews, June 2: Executive Director Razor and the K TECH Committee interviewed the two candidates who had applied. Although both candidates were very qualified for the role, the group offered the position to Ms. Shellie Baker, who accepted the position and began working with NKCES on July 13.

NKYEC Board of Directors Meeting, June 3: Executive Director Razor attended the meeting virtually to stay abreast of current work being done in the region to positively impact students.

Re Entry Regional Focus Group Kick Off Virtual Meeting, June 5: Incoming President, Dr. Henry Webb suggested the need for a regional focus group consisting of district leaders, teachers, students and community members. The participation in the virtual meeting was incredibly helpful as district leaders continued in the effort of preparing reentry plans for their district that meet the educational, social and safety needs of our students.

Superintendent Reentry Planning Meeting, June 10-12: In lieu of a traditional Superintendent Retreat, several of the NKCES Superintendent met in Louisville, KY to discuss the topic of reentry and strategized how that could work for the region. Executive Director Razor led a session on stress and strategies to work through those moments. The group also welcomed special guest, Eric Kennedy, who was able to add to the rich conversations in which the group engaged.

Meeting with Northern Kentucky Education Council, June 16: Executive Director Razor and members of the executive board attended a virtual meeting with Dr. Randy Poe to discuss the regional strategic alignment with outside organizations as well as an update on the programs and coalition teams of the Council.

KAEC Greeting, June 22: As president of KAEC, Executive Director Razor held a meet and greet zoom virtual meeting. The new Education Cooperative Directors were formally introduced to the group and they discussed current events and how they plan to support one another.

Virtual Meeting to discuss Cooperative PD Opportunity with David Cook - KDE, June 24: KDE submitted the application and supporting documents to CDC for the supplemental funding related to COVID-19 guidance and school re-opening. It was reviewed by our CDC Project officer for any glaring issues and cleared that hurdle prior to submission. We anticipate hearing back from them in the next 3-4 weeks with our Notice of Award.

The proposal identified each of the ed coops as our primary partner in delivering SEL PD and technical assistance. We identified 2 levels of funding within the coops \$15,400 and \$26,400, based on the number of districts served. NKCES will receive 15,000 to work on trauma-informed online training.

Superintendent Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting, June 22: Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting with Dr. Webb and Dr. Rust to stay up to date on the latest information regarding COVID19 and the reentry of students back into the classroom.

SAC Meeting, July 6: Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting to stay up to date on the latest information regarding COVID19 and the reentry of students back into the classroom.

Retirement Golf Outing and Celebration Dinner, July 7: Several Superintendents met at Pendleton Hills Golf Course and Country Club to celebrate Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, Dr. Randy Poe and Mr. Kelly Middleton for their services to students in NKY. We thank our sponsors for making this event possible, American Fidelity, Assured Partners and Compass Municipal Advisors.

KDE Healthy Schools Project Overview, July 8: Executive Director Razor met with other cooperative directors and state leaders to discuss the details regarding the Social and Emotional Learning mini grant that was awarded to NKCES in the amount of \$15,000.00. NKCES was also awarded a mini grant in the area of digital learning which will support educators bridge the technology gap associated with NTI.

Learning Grove conference call regarding College & Career Coordinator, July 8: Executive Director Razor participated in a call with Learning Grove to share with the team how the KTECH Coordinator role will support students seeking the healthcare industry as an area of interest upon graduation as compared with the Northern Kentucky Connector. The discussion focused primarily on the NKY Connector role and possible solutions for the future.

KDE Conference call regarding grant funding, July 8: Executive Director attended a call with state cooperative directors to understand the funding and requirements for the mini-grants being offered to KY Education Cooperatives to support students and teachers as they return to school in the fall. The grants in the areas of Digital Learning and SEL.

KDE Healthy Schools Project Overview, July 10: Executive Director Razor met with state leaders to discuss the plan set forth to meet the requirements of the grant. Dr. Laura Clarke has created an online learning experience for the region, which she will lead along with other passionate leaders in this area.

KDE Healthy Schools Project Overview, July 14: Executive Director Razor participated in an additional call with state leaders to review the grant requirements and how that will be disseminated out to the region.

SAC Meeting, July 20: Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting to stay up to date on the latest information regarding COVID19 and the reentry of students back into the classroom.

Kentucky Association of School Administrators Annual Conference, July 27-31: Executive Director Razor attended the annual conference to join colleagues from across the state for powerful networking, thought-provoking education sessions, and innovative business solutions. As president of KAEC, she will also be meeting with the new cooperative directors to discuss roles and responsibilities.