

NKCES Report – August 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, Micki Ray
- 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. Diane Hatfield facilitated the inaugural Title I & Title II meeting through a virtual format on August 21. This is a great group of educators who work cooperatively to ensure federal funds effectively positively impact student learning.
- Mrs. Hatfield facilitated the inaugural PL Consortium meeting through a virtual format on August 21. It is my honor to work with these district leaders to support professional learning in our NKCES districts.
- Vicki Dansberry met with the Grants Consortium to outline specifics of the new \$1.5 million Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) grant and to update members about the other grants in progress.
- Ms. Dansberry is working with REACH of Louisville to determine protocol for KIP administration, originally expected in October 2020.
- Mr. Joe Bertucci connected with regional arts education leaders in a virtual meeting focused on anti-racism in arts education.
- RSP continues to connect with our district partners and is in fluid connection with district partners and families through this transition.
- Mrs. Stephanie Turner has been collaborating with District of Record (Dayton) and other partnering districts in regards to the reopening plan for RSP, as well as following state guidelines released.

- The next Regional Alternative Program meeting will be on September 23rd, from 4-5:30pm.

- Mrs. Becky Nixon met with Ginni Fair, NKU Dean of College of Education, on ways to partner with NKU Professors and Practicum Students to support districts and parents during remote learning. We are in the beginning stages of discussion. More information to come.
- Mrs. Nixon continues to meet with other state cooperative special education directors and staff from the Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) regarding remote learning, reopening, etc. 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 participated in calls with members of OSEEL regarding changes to the Alternate Assessment verification process and the focus of upcoming monitoring visits.
- Mrs. Nixon, along with the state cooperative special education directors, met with Sylvia Starkey, KDE Director of Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results, to collaborate/calibrate on IEP development prior to our IDEA consultants being trained/calibrated.
- Mrs. Nixon invited Ms. Starkey to come to the August DoSE Meeting to share focus of upcoming monitoring visits and answer DoSEs' questions regarding reopening and serving students with disabilities. DoSEs were able to submit their questions in advance.
- The EL Consultants co-hosted the first EL PLN of the 20-21 school year online with Nichole Neuhard, EL Coordinator for Erlanger-Elsmere Teachers discussed strategies for engaging EL students in virtual and in-person instruction.
- IDEA consultants met with their respective task groups to learn and strategize on remote learning supports in the area of literacy, math, behavior, low incidence and IEP.
- Dr. Laura Clarke met with Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network (KY-SPIN) to share parent supports at a September online session.
- Dr. Merissa Waddey and Dr. Laura Clarke met with KYCEC to plan virtual supports for new emergency and probationary teachers.
- Dr. Laura Clarke met with the KY Autism Training Center to develop a remote Google site to support teachers who work with students with autism.

Grow:

- NKCES Professional Online Platform has proudly served more than 20,000 educators as of August 31 from NKY and beyond since the inception of this platform. Both certified and classified trainings can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/nkcesonlinetraining>
- NKCES continues to receive positive feedback regarding the modules offered on the Professional Learning Platform, check out just a sampling of the [feedback](#).
- During the month of August NKCES sponsored 132 regional activities serving 4,510 educators.
- During the month of August, the IDEA consultants added six new online modules.
- NKCES team members collaborated to revise the Connect Grow Serve log.
- Grants Consortium members and NKCES staff are working to hire two staff members for the new SPF project: project director and lead epidemiologist. A hiring team has been created and we are receiving applications.
- RSP welcomes two new teachers and one new paraeducator to our team and is still working on hiring for other paraeducator openings.
- An RSP teacher applied for a grant to increase SEL opportunities for students and was awarded a grant to add equine therapy for students.
- Mr. Bertucci analyzed participant feedback and the arts/science units teachers created during July's virtual Arts Integration Workshop to inform ongoing coaching and future professional learning.

- Mr. Bertucci reviewed digital tools and virtual activities, shared resources with regional arts teachers, and updated arts resources for online learning for both educators and parents.
- Mrs. Nixon and the IDEA Consultants participated in The Art of Coaching Teams Training which guides teams on how to become more effective and self-reflective leaders/coaches.
- NKCES, in partnership with KATC, KSB and KSD, now has 70 plus online modules.
- IDEA Consultants have reimagined New Teacher ACademy, developing a choice board with nine new trainings that are being offered in an on-demand format to support new teachers during remote learning.
- Misti Carr led the region in its first Digital Learning Design Lab Session. District technology leaders met in August to review our regional Digital Learning Choice Board to support district technology use.

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 facilitated the inaugural Physical Education PLN on August 10. These educators have a tremendous collaborative spirit and work together to meet the needs of their students.
- Mrs. Hatfield facilitated the NKAGE PLN on August 21. This is a long-standing cooperative group who focused on the education of gifted students.
- Mrs. Hatfield continues to coordinate the VI services for those districts who participate; regularly meets with NKCES staff serving Arts and Grants initiative; and continues to meet with the NKCES EL staff as they begin to support the districts utilizing these services.
- Mrs. Hatfield continues to work with Shellie Baker, the new NKY K-Tech Program Coordinator to NKCES. Cooperatively we revised the K-Tech budget and service plan.
- Mrs. Hatfield continues to support Linda Lane and the OVR grant initiatives.
- RSP's first day of school was 8/26/20. Staff held technology/supply curbside pick-up and delivery the two days prior. Staff worked with families in need of Internet access and connected them with United Way.
- Ms. Dansberry met virtually with the project director from Washington to update information about the Innovative Approaches to Education and Professional Development for Arts Education grants.
- Ms. 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.
- Ms. Dansberry met with several steering committees and an epidemiological outcomes workgroup for the various grants in place, along with Ms. Chism, who wrote and received a new grant for RSP.
- Ms. Dansberry continues to consult 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 and other resources to support districts.

- Mrs. Nixon and Dr. Laura Clarke offered several ARC Chair Trainings for New ARC Chairs and a Refresher ARC Chair Training for experienced ARC Chairs.
- Mrs. Nixon has been doing both virtual and in-person training in the area of Speech Language as it relates to interventions, referral, evaluation, eligibility and IEPs for students with Speech/Language Impairments.
- Mrs. Nixon, in partnership with Anderson County Early Childhood RTC, hosted a Q & A Session with Preschool Teachers and Coordinators regarding reopening their preschool classes. Teachers were able to get answers regarding room set up to promote social distancing, centers, small and large group times, etc.
- Mrs. Nixon has taken on the role of cooperative DoSE lead for the State Low Incidence Task Group. The task group meets two days a month. Currently, the task group is meeting virtually. When meetings are held in person, they will be held in Louisville. The task group met in August and is working on new resources for alternate assessment.
- Each IDEA consultant has been assigned to a different state task group to ensure regional and state support across each focus area. They had their first meetings in August and will continue to meet each month. Each group identified priority areas of work for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Dr. Damien Sweeney from KDE has agreed to support our new regional PLN for Culturally Responsive Teaching. The group's first meeting is September 15th.
- The EL Consultants hosted sessions at the Fort Thomas's PD Academy and are meeting with teachers of all the EL students in our EL Program districts.
- Mr. Bertucci submitted documentation to provide funds for arts materials and experiences to each school participating in the Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education.

NKCES Executive Director:

NKCES Board of Directors Meeting, August 5: The first Board of Directors meeting for 2020/2021 year took place at Scott High School to ensure proper social distancing to be maintained throughout the entirety of the meeting and allow guests to attend to view the meeting live as opposed to virtual. At this meeting we officially recognized Dr. Rust for his service to the region and welcomed Dr. Webb as NKCES President.

KTECH NKY Meeting, August 11: Executive Director Razor met with regional stakeholders involved in the K-Tech work, along with Shellie Baker to share an overview and level set an understanding of the project. A follow-up meeting will be a next step with Saint Elizabeth representatives.

NKCES Digital Learning Design Lab, August 12: Executive Director Razor attended a virtual kickoff meeting at which Ms. Misti Carr led the KDE team who will be supporting digital education leaders during virtual meetings. First topic of discussion: Communication Strategies for Opening the School Year.

Emergency Day Criteria Meeting, August 12: Executive Director Razor attended a virtual meeting with other state cooperative directors to discuss the topic of what qualifies an emergency day in a pandemic. Each cooperative had representatives from their executive board to give input and guide the conversation. The conversation was productive and information was shared to clarify the protocol when considering emergency days approval. Other topics were discussed in regard to the pandemic and school opening which were shared on the NKCES Connect Call.

Meeting with Mr. David Young, Cooperative Director CKEC, August 13: Executive Director Razor and Mr. David Young met briefly at NKCES. Mr. Young was introduced to essential staff reporting to the office daily; they discussed current events and topics.

Kroger Corporate Lunch and Learn: Executive Director Razor was asked to participate in a lunch and learn panel made up of other educators from Bellevue Independent and Walton Verona Independent to discuss topics surrounding students returning to school virtually and how to best support them. The Kroger Company is a major employer in NKY and across the nation and they are always looking for ways to best support their employees, and the best way to do that in this situation is to ask the experts. The dialogue was rich and heartfelt. The folks at Kroger Corporation were grateful for the opportunity and suggestions shared to best support students in a pandemic.

Superintendent Advisory Council SAC Meeting, August 17: Executive Director Razor attended the monthly meeting with Superintendent representatives from across the state to stay abreast of current events relative to COVID 19 and the impact on students returning to school.

CDC Healthy Schools Supplemental Grant Update, August 21: Executive Assistant Jessica Faust attended a virtual meeting with other Education Cooperative grant recipients hosted by Mr. Jim Tackett, Finance and Operations lead at KDE. The purpose of the meeting was to check on where folks were with completing the MOA, and call out specific requirements to ensure deliverables are met and billing is timely. Mr. Tackett also requested each representative to share what the respective cooperative was doing to meet the needs of healthy schools for their region. It was great to share with others and hear their ideas.

Recurring Meeting Dates:

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

August 4

August 11

August 10

August 18

August 25

State Education Continuation Task Force Conference Calls:

August 10

Virtual Connection for NTI: NKCES Superintendents

August 13

August 20