

## NKCES Report – October 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

**NKCES Staff Meeting, October 5:** Executive Director Razor led the NKCES monthly staff meeting. Topics such as new NKCES team members, COVID office protocol, and mindfulness were discussed. Team members shared updates.

**KAEC Meeting, October 5:** As President of KAEC, Executive Director Razor led a follow-up meeting to further develop an idea that gained momentum at the KAEC state directors retreat: how to successfully share public education's story with our communities.

**KY Superintendent Webcast, October 6, 13:** Executive Director Razor attended a webcast led by the Education Commissioner, Dr. Glass, and state leaders to keep informed on the latest developments in the virus COVID 19 and the impact on state and local school districts.

**College and Career Connector Conversation, October 8:** Executive Director Razor attended a virtual meeting with focus from Learning Grove and NKY Grow to discuss the Connector role.

**PL Consortium Meeting, October 16:** Executive Director Razor attended the virtual PL Consortium meeting led by Ms. Diane Hatfield to stay current on the needs of our region as well as learn the ways each district is adapting to the ever-changing pandemic restrictions. This provided a lens of how NKCES can continue to adapt to provide support for the region through this crisis.

**NCERT, October 21-23:** Like most national conferences, NCERT went virtual for their biannual conference. Executive Director Razor, along with other educational leaders, attended the three-day event virtually. The experience was filled with incredible presenters and dialogue for professional growth.

**United Way Meeting, October 21:** Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting to learn how impactful United Way has been to students and their families throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. United Way has worked tirelessly to ensure each household is connected to the internet so student learning and growth can still take place virtually.

**Monthly KDE Led Cooperative Director Meeting, October 26:** Executive Director Razor, along with the other state cooperative directors, attended this virtual meeting to stay in lockstep with state initiatives to keep each region successful in the pursuit of student success.

**NKCES KASS Advocacy Press Conference, October 26:** NKCES President, Incoming President, Advocacy Chair, and a KASS Board Member and Representative spoke on behalf of all superintendents in a press conference to share with local media their legislative priorities for the 2021 general assembly.

**NKCES Superintendent Virtual Connect Call, October 26:** NKCES Superintendents and Executive Director Razor joined together to discuss the current impact of COVID 19 on their districts. This call had been once weekly and moved to monthly once the majority of the districts started with in-person instruction.

**KAEC, Telling Our Story, October 27-28:** Executive Director Razor led a two-day meeting for state cooperative directors at KSBA in Frankfort, KY. The purpose of the meeting was to unify the approach of public education to telling their stories of community and success. Mr. Josh Shoulta, Communications Director at KSBA, shared his expertise in how to communicate the message so it is impactful.

**AESA National Conference Pre Recording, October 29:** Executive Director Razor was asked to present at the AESA National Conference in December. Like most National Conferences, AESA was moved to virtual. Therefore, all presenters have been asked to pre-record their presentation. Ms. Razor and past NKCES presidents presented about the journey to achieving a united voice and the successes made while advocating for public education.

### **Special Education Update:**

The NKCES IDEA Advisory Board Met on Wednesday, October 21st. Teachers and administrators on the board reviewed the work of the IDEA team and shared recommendations for future training and support.

The NKCES DoSE meeting was held on Friday, October 23rd. They reviewed the IDEA Advisory Board recommendations and shared additional input. The IDEA team began reviewing the recommendations and implementing them in the Winter and Spring Training Plan. In addition, OSEEL updates were shared with DoSE's. KDE OSEEL has been selected for OSEP Monitoring. This is a three-year process. The first year consists of a review. The second year consists of an onsite visit. The third year consists of working on the Corrective Action Plan (CAP), if needed.

Mrs. Becky Nixon has worked with John O'Connor, author of *Great Instruction Great Achievement for Students with Disabilities*, to do a virtual training on Nov. 19th from 3:30 to 5:00. The training is called Strengthening Virtual Instruction for Struggling Learners. This training was advertised and met the maximum of 100 participants within 24 hours. As a result, Mrs. Nixon is working with John O'Connor to offer a second date.

Dr. Laura Clarke was invited by KDE OSEEL Department to participate in a related services training development to be released across the state in early 2021.

Dr. Merissa Waddey has been coordinating KYCEC's New Teacher Academy. This year, for the first time ever, it will be offered in a virtual platform and will include sessions focused on supporting new teachers in the current learning environment. Dr. Waddey and Dr. Clarke are both preparing sessions to be shared in this academy.

Mrs. Nixon and Dr. Clarke led two ARC Chair Trainings that focused on chairing referral meetings and eligibility meetings. These new specialized trainings are increasing regional capacity to lead ARC meetings that meet state compliance requirements. In addition, Mrs. Nixon and Dr. Clarke provided two new related services trainings for SLP's, OT's and PT's that provided a walk through of new KDE resources.

The Assistive Technology PLN was held on October 29th. Ms. Barb Wietlisbach and Dr. Clarke shared updated resources for Assistive Technology implementation in schools.

## **OVR Update**

- **During October**, Pre-Employment Transition Services workshop participation has continued to grow. Individual and small group workshops began with students at Dayton, Lloyd, Simon Kenton, and Newport High schools. Currently, Linda Lane is visiting google classrooms, delivering virtual synchronous instruction to students on alt. assessment and diploma track. As a part of work readiness skills, Linda has created a driver's permit study group, working with two small groups of students at Lloyd HS. Linda is accepting additional referrals for these and other Pre-ETS offerings schedule permitting. Referrals from RSP, RISE Academy, and Bellevue, and Covington Independent are in process.
- **Transition PLN:** Oct. 20, 2020 3:30-4:30 p.m. Eight educators from Boone County Schools, Beechwood Independent, and Regional Schools Program participated in our kick-off event. OVR Branch Manager, Michelle Cobb presented on the many services and resources available through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Michelle answered questions about services and the referral process.

## **Professional Learning (PL) Update:**

**October Professional Learning:** NKCES supported a total of 149 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of October serving 968 educators.

**NKCES Professional Online Platform** has proudly served more than 21,627 educators from NKY and beyond since the inception of this platform. Both certified and classified trainings can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/nkcesonlinetraining>

**PL Consortium:** The PL Consortium met on October 16 and opened up with a guest, Dr. Ryan Salzman, NKU Professor of Political Science, seeking to connect with districts to support civics education. Kim Snowball, NKCES Mathematics Professional Learning Coach, shared resources for Number Talks; and Shellie Baker, KY Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, and Lorraine O'Moore, on the College and Career network, provided an update on Work Based Learning.

**Title I & Title II Meeting:** The Title directors met on October 16 and October 29 to work collaboratively and support each other as districts maneuver through the implementation of the CARES funding.

**DAC Consortium:** NKCES hosted DAC Consortium on October 16. It was a great meeting and the willingness to connect and support each other was very much evident.

**The Writing Revolution Book Study** kicked off on October 13th with book distribution. Led by Amelia Brown, 20 educators from Boone County, Bellevue Independent, Ft. Thomas, and Covington will be studying this book to learn how to embed expository writing in any content area. These educators represent a variety of experience and expertise:

- From one special education teacher: "I chose to join the study because I want to learn strategies and techniques to better help students on my caseload with writing goals."
- From an elementary teacher: "Writing is a subject that I am always looking for more ideas and ways of teaching so this sounded like a great opportunity!"
- From a high school teacher: "I chose this study in order to brush up my skills and to be able to be a support for other content area teachers who might struggle with feeling effective when it comes to adding writing to their classes."

**Professional Learning Networks (PLNs):** Our PLNs in October included: NKAGE, Physical Education, School Counselors, Community Learning Centers, Transition, Special Education and Assistive Technology. PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning.

### **Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:**

RSP will be transitioning to 4 days of in-person instruction, as our first quarter ends the end of October. Thank you again to our partnering districts and Advisory Board for ongoing collaboration during our planning and preparation for the return of students to in-person. We will continue to utilize the matrix and our daily reporting tool to monitor data and utilize it for decision making.

We received communication from Mix 94.9, Holly Morgan, that they will be promoting the "Pack the Pantry" event for RSP again this year. This event collects food donations to assist us in our yearly holiday food baskets that we send with families each year. This partnership continues to be monumental in our efforts to provide for families. This will be done through an amazon list and deliveries will come direct to the school.

NKCES staff and consultants will also be providing our students with a holiday shop again this year. We will share details as they are finalized for collecting donations, etc. It may look a little different this year, but we are excited for the opportunity to continue this for our students to be able to be givers for the holiday season!

### **English Learners (EL) Program Update:**

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, have been working with students both virtually and in person, depending on each district's needs and schedules. They have completed the test ordering for ACCESS. The consultants will meet with the Title III Coordinators in the NKCES Title III Consortium next month to review the Lau Plan, ACCESS testing timelines, and to assess the districts' PD needs.

On November 9, Heather Ralphes, Daniele Novak, and Dr. Merissa Waddey will be hosting a virtual PD session, Navigating the Intersection of English Learner and Disability.

### **NKY Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):**

Joe Bertucci met with the arts integration teams at Tichenor Middle School, Woodland Middle School, Williamstown Elementary, and two teams at Boone County High School to assist in planning units integrating the arts with science. Mr. Bertucci also observed an arts-integrated lesson at Lindeman Elementary, via Google Meet.

On Saturday, October 24, Mr. Bertucci partnered with The Carnegie to offer an outdoor, socially-distanced Improv Show for NKIAE teachers, modeling ways to integrate improvisational acting games into the classroom.

Mr. Bertucci reviewed and submitted requests for additional funding from ArtsWave for STEAM instruction in NKIAE schools.

### **Grant Consortium Update:**

**Positive Action:** A new grant was awarded from a new agency: The Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded the Grants Consortium \$750,000 to be used over the next three years to implement Positive Action, a violence prevention program, and to research changes that result in our schools from its use. We will collaborate with RTI, a major research firm, on the evaluation. Schools in Bracken County, Dayton, Erlanger-Elsmere, Ludlow and Southgate will be participating.

### **In implementation:**

**Innovative Approaches to Literacy, Bellevue and Erlanger grants:** Still working to address district and school needs, especially in light of COVID. In final year starting October 1.

**Professional Development for Arts Educators:** Professional development continues in many forms for participating arts and science teachers. Also, an RFP for mini-grants was distributed to participants for up to \$1500 for additional supplies.

**Project Prevent:** Report submitted October 15. Erlanger and Covington are collaborating to plan for Year Two.

**Strategic Prevention Framework (Regional and EES):**

**Regional:** Hiring is complete! Ashleigh DuBois and Kristen Haddad started October 27.

**EES:** Report submitted October 30. Schools are finding useful information in the CART tool and we expect use to pick up this year once students are back in the buildings.

**ArtsWave:** Joe Bertucci is working to distribute funds to schools in need for arts integration projects.

**Full Service Community Schools:** Erlanger is working on hiring staff for this new grant.

### **Reports coming due:**

NKY ASAP report due November 30

ArtsWave due November 30

PDAE report due December 4

IAL BV report due December 7

IAL EE report due December 7

### **Pending**

VSA Kennedy Center Professional Development Program

Drug Free Communities (Erlanger and Bracken)

### **Training Schedule**

Vicki will provide the following training to district staff each month online. Please let interested staff know. An email provides the link to all grant representatives and superintendents. If anyone else needs the link, email [vicki.dansberry@nkces.org](mailto:vicki.dansberry@nkces.org).

November 10, 10:00 am: Needs Section

December 1, 10:00 am: Program Section

January 5, 10:00 am: Project Management/Organization Capacity Section

February 2, 10:00 am: Evaluation Section

**Additional training by request:** SAM.gov, Grants.gov, eRA Commons, g5, etc. and common Federal Forms; Where does grant data come from?; Various roles in grants development and management; HELP! This grant is overwhelming me!; User selected topics.

**Next meeting** November 10, 8:30 a.m. online.