

NKCES Report – November/December 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

Professional Learning Room Renovation, November 9: Executive Director Amy Razor and Ms. Jessica Faust met with Mr. Ehmet Hayes from Robert Ehmet Hayes and Associates to discuss the renovation of the final training room. The updates primarily consist of new flooring and lighting.

Grants Consortium, November 10: Executive Director Razor attended the meeting to stay informed of the current events and support needed for grants.

KY Superintendent Webcast, November 10: 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.

Kentucky Women in Education Leadership (KWEL), November 11: Executive Director Razor attended a virtual meeting to discuss future KWEL event opportunities.

NKCES Rebranding with Nikole Friend, November 12: Executive Director Razor and Ms. Faust met with Ms. Nikole Friend to finalize the new NKCES logo and discuss the deployment of the new branding to the Board of Directors and the NKCES team.

Meeting with KSBA, November 13: Virtual Planning call for the upcoming KAEC meeting agenda, roles and responsibilities.

Meeting at KSBA with KAEC members, November 16-18: Executive Director Razor attended an in-person meeting at KSBA with KAEC Executive Directors to discuss the deployment of the joint social media campaign, #TellingOurStoryKY. The campaign strives to shine a brighter light on the positive and critical role of public school for students.

NKYEK Fall Convening, November 18: Executive Director Razor attended the virtual event to support the regional work.

Professional Learning Consortium, November 20: 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 conversation provided a lens of how NKCES can continue to adapt to provide support for the region through this crisis.

KAEC Meeting, November 23: Executive Director Razor led a zoom meeting for the state's Education Cooperative Executive Directors to discuss the agreed-upon deployment of TellingOurStoryKY to each region's district leaders.

LSAC, November 24: Executive Director Razor, along with superintendent representatives, attended this virtual meeting to stay informed of the regulation changes happening in the state to meet the needs of public education.

Monthly KDE-Led Education Cooperative Director Meeting, November 30: Executive Director Razor, along with the other state education cooperative directors, attended this virtual meeting to stay abreast of state initiatives to keep each region successful in the pursuit of student success.

NKCES Superintendent Virtual Connect Call, November 30: 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.

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AESA National Conference, December 1-4: Executive Director Razor, Dr. Robb Smith, Superintendent Alvin Garrison and Superintendent Mike Borchers attended the National Conference virtually. During the NKCES pre-recorded breakout session, Executive Director Razor and the NKCES Superintendents who participated in the recording were available to answer questions from those who attended the session across the nation. We are grateful for the opportunity to share the NKY approach to advocacy and the power we have when we work together.

ASCD Conference, December 3-4: Executive Director Razor attended this virtual conference to hear from education leaders from across the country. Opportunities such as these allow Ms. Razor to stay on the cutting edge and bring ideas back to our region to be utilized.

Special Meeting with Lt. Gov. Coleman and Gov. Andy Breshear, December 4: Executive Director Razor, along with education leaders from across the state, tuned in to hear the latest update from the Governor as it relates to COVID 19 and the impact on education.

CLAG, December 8: Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting to stay informed of current events in Campbell County which include everything from education to real estate to business.

Legislative Meeting with NKCES Superintendents, December 8: Executive Director Razor partnered with NKCES Advocacy Chair Superintendent Borchers to discuss the education agenda for the upcoming legislative session. The superintendents plan to meet with NKY legislators for a friendly, productive conversation later this month as a strategy to find common ground and share perspectives in advance to and during the legislative session.

Meeting with KVEC, December 8: KVEC graciously offered to lead the effort of designing a KAEC webpage and keeping it up to date to provide statewide communication and network as we broaden the resources offered to all districts. KAEC is a vital resource for the state and a webpage will keep the work and offerings of this group as well as provide easy access to the eight education cooperatives that make up this impactful team.

KY Superintendent Webcast, December 8:: Executive Director Razor attended a webcast led by the Education Commissioner, Dr. Jason E. 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.

NKYEC Board Meeting, December 10: Executive Director Razor attending this virtual meeting to stay informed of community business partnerships that are being utilized to bring opportunities to the region for student impact and success.

KASA Legislative Session Prep, December 15: Executive Director Razor attended this virtual meeting to hear from Dr. Flynn and others regarding the legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

NKCES Superintendent Holiday Luncheon, December 15: Executive Director Razor hosted a holiday luncheon for the Superintendents to show gratitude for all of their work individually and as a group through this unprecedented year. A huge thank you to our sponsor American Fidelity for their monetary donation toward the superintendent gifts.

Special Superintendent Webcast with Commissioner Glass, December 15: Executive Director Razor, along with education leaders across the state, joined in to hear from Commissioner Glass regarding the possibility of return to in-person instruction.

State Strategic Budget Meeting, December 17: Executive Director Razor and Ms. Angie Perkins attended the virtual meeting to learn more about the potential for a PLC for finance directors. The meeting was informative and more information will be shared as we receive it.

All KAEC Meeting, December 17: Executive Director Razor participated in a conversation with the Education Cooperative Directors to provide clarity and support in preparation for each education cooperative's #TellingOurStoryKY campaign launch.

NKCES Virtual Holiday Celebration, December 18: The NKCES staff took a step away from work to participate in an amazing and interactive holiday party created by Dr. Laura Clarke. There was lots of laughter and fun had by all. It was so nice to see everyone, even if virtually, to take time to pause, reflect and appreciate each other. Everyone also strengthened their skillset of google classroom tools as a result!

2021 NKY Legislative Discussion, December 22: Executive Director Razor, along with the NKCES Superintendents, hosted a zoom meeting with local legislators for a friendly conversation regarding the priorities for educators during the upcoming session. The conversation was productive and provided a positive forum for discussion.

Special Education Update:

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on Monday, November 16th. The NKCES DoSE meeting was held on Friday, November 20th. We discussed virtual ARC training needs and district special education procedures. On December 18th, the DoSEs met to celebrate two retirements.

Dr. Laura Clarke presented a session at the National CASE Conference held virtually on November 7th. The title of the session was *Leading Data Driven IEP Meetings*.

On November 18th, Dr. Merissa Waddey led KYCEC's New Teacher Academy. Dr. Waddey coordinated the development of online sessions that were created by consultants across the state, including one session created by Dr. Clarke.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the December State Directors Meeting with OSEEL on December 8th. The IDEA consultants attended their respective monthly state group meetings. Mrs. Becky Nixon leads the state Low Incidence Task Group.

Dr. Laura Clarke attended a KYCCBD Planning Committee meeting on December 10th. The group is developing monthly sessions for special education teachers to support remote instruction and teacher well-being during the pandemic.

Dr. Laura Clarke presented for Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network (KY-SPIN) on December 1st regarding literacy strategies to support students with disabilities. Mrs. Kim Snowball presented for KY-SPIN on December 15th regarding math strategies to support students with disabilities.

Dr. Laura Clarke attended Threat Assessment Training Updates from Dr. Dewey Cornell on December 15th.

Dr. Laura Clarke, Dr. Merissa Waddey, and Becky Nixon attended Julie Weatherly's Virtual Special Education Legal Update Training on December 16th. This information was shared with DoSEs.

Mrs. Becky Nixon has worked with John O'Connor, author of *Great Instruction Great Achievement for Students with Disabilities* to provide several virtual training sessions. John O'Connor presented an in-depth review of his "8 big ideas" about virtual teaching and learning to support struggling learners on both November 19 and December 1. Participants increased their understanding of the most effective practices to support learning and social emotional needs for struggling students in a virtual environment. Both sessions were so well received, John O'Connor will be returning to present repeat sessions on January 9 and January 20.

The IDEA consultants added six sessions to the online learning site including Writing Interventions and Assessments for Students with Disabilities as well as training specific to Alternative Assessment.

Mrs. Becky Nixon continues to send our monthly IDEA newsletter to DoSEs. The newsletter is filled with strategies and resources in the area of math, literacy, behavior, transition, assistive technology and compliance. Dr. Laura Clarke and Dr. Merissa Waddey continue to send various information and resources via regional teacher distribution lists that support instruction for students with disabilities. In November and December, these resources focused on remote learning, instructional strategies and teacher self-care tips.

OVR Update

Pre-ETS Workshops: During November and December, Linda Lane continued virtual individual and small group workshops, visiting google classrooms and serving students on alt.assessment and as well as diploma track. Students from Dayton, Lloyd, Simon Kenton, and Boone County high schools participate. Senior year English students at Boone County High School are participating in an Interview Skills mini course that will extend into the new year and finish with mock interviews.

Transition PLN plans, Jan. 12: Guest speaker Misti Carr will share “Transition Mapping”, a networking strategy that makes the most of the every day connections to support successful transition for high school students.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

November Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 117 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of November serving 1166 educators.

December Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 137 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of December serving 1064 educators.

NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform has proudly served more than 22,565 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 November 20 . Kristen Haddad and Ashleigh DuBois shared information about the Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention, a regional grant project to serve all districts in the Grants Consortium. The [Virtual Meeting Platforms Accessibility Options](#) document was shared which includes great information regarding all the various platforms used for remote learning. Amelia Brown elicited feedback regarding the Substitute Teacher training NKCES is currently creating.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The Title directors met on November 20 to work collaboratively and support each other as districts maneuver through the implementation of the Title programing.

DAC Consortium: NKCES hosted DAC Consortium on November 17 and December 15. These meetings are epitome of regional collaboration.

Special Education Teachers’ PLN: Our Special Education Teachers' PLN Make & Take was held virtually on Dec. 2nd. Our focus was on Visual Supports for Self-Regulation, so we explored calming corners for both in-person and virtual settings, as well as other visual tools. Teachers had the opportunity to customize the virtual tools that were shared with them, and one teacher from RSP emailed information about the incredible "Peace Corner" she'd already created and shared with her students the following day. It's amazing to see how teachers are still seeking their own professional growth and immediately applying what they learn!

November Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): Our PLNs in November included: NKAGE, Physical Education, Culturally Responsive, Instructional Coaches, Arts and Humanities and English Learners. PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning.

December Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): Our PLNs in December included: NKAGE, School Counselors, and Special Education. PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

Hickory Grove delivered full Thanksgiving Meal bags to RSP for our families in need; they included ham, pie, and all of the sides to go along with them.

Mix 94.9, Holly Morgan, and their community of listeners “Packed our Pantry” so that we were able to put together holiday food baskets for our families. These, along with gifts that were donated and/or purchased with donations, were porch-drop delivered on Wednesday 12/16/20. These partnerships continue to be monumental in our efforts to provide for families.

Thank you NKCES and Shellie Baker for providing a virtual Holiday Shop for the students at RSP. We are so thankful that students still had an opportunity to shop for loved ones and be the givers this holiday season. Thank you to all who donated to make this a possibility for our students.

RSP and TLC hosted the Regional Alternative Program (RAP) meeting on December 9th. Since we are hosting these virtually, they are opened up to the state and we have had great success with discussion and collaboration. The next meeting will be February 24th.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, continued to work with students in person and virtually in November and virtually through December. ACCESS testing has been rescheduled by the state to March 1-April 16th. Additionally, Daniele worked with CAL to reschedule the SIOP training, originally scheduled for March, to February 18th, 19th, 24th, and 25th.

NKY Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

On November 14, NKIAE hosted virtual professional learning with the Contemporary Arts Center focused on integrating art with science. On November 19, NKIAE teachers participated in virtual professional learning with the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Joe Bertucci hosted the Visual & Performing Arts PLN meeting on November 19, with a focus on mindfulness through the arts.

Mr. Bertucci met with arts integration teams at six schools to assist in planning and implementing lessons (Boone County High School, Ludlow Elementary, Newport Intermediate, Ft. Wright Elementary, Miles Elementary, and Lindeman Elementary). Mr. Bertucci also observed and provided feedback for arts-integrated lessons at Lincoln Elementary, Boone County High School, Arnett Elementary, Southern Elementary, and Williamstown Elementary.

Mr. Bertucci completed the annual performance report for our Professional Development for Arts Educators Grant, and accepted a contract with the Kennedy Center’s VSA Program focused on offering professional development in arts and special education.

Grant Consortium Update:

In implementation:

Innovative Approaches to Literacy, Bellevue and Erlanger grants are still working to address district and school needs, especially in light of COVID. The Grants Consortium will host a joint meeting January 11 to discuss use of funds, data in the new world of COVID, and potential no-cost extension into Year Four.

Professional Development for Arts Educators: Professional development continues in many forms for

participating arts and science teachers. Also, mini-grants for up to \$1500 for additional supplies awarded to three schools.

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

Strategic Prevention Framework (Regional and EES):

Regional: Ashleigh DuBois and Kristen Haddad submitted their effective first report prior to the Dec. deadline, less than two months after starting in their work. They also hosted their first steering committee meeting.

EES: Report was submitted before the December deadline. 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.

Full Service Community Schools: Erlanger has hired staff for this new grant and is beginning implementation.

New Awards

VSA Kennedy Center Professional Development Program: We were awarded a contract to provide arts integration training for special education teachers.

Drug Free Communities Erlanger-Elsmere will receive \$125,000 per year for the next five years, with potential for an additional five years, to provide substance abuse prevention programming focused largely on early childhood.

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.

January 5, 10:00 am: Program Section

February 2, 10:00 am: Project Management/Organization Capacity Section

March 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 February 2, 2021, 8:30 a.m. online.