

## NKCES Report – January 2021

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.



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**Telling Our Story KY Webinar, January 5:** Executive Directors Amy Razor, Gretchen Wetzel, and David Young and Superintendent Dr. Robb Smith led district leaders through an introduction to the social media campaign of telling positive public education stories.

**Apprenticeship, January 6** Executive Director Razor connected with KTECH (Youth Apprenticeship) to discuss funding and next steps. She also held a meeting with Kathy Burkhardt to discuss communication and connections with the NKY Connector and KTECH.

**Inspired Leadership, January 7 & 8:** NKCES was excited to welcome back the wonderful Inspired Leadership training virtually. This training is so powerful that it was offered a second time for newer NKCES associates. The training was well received by all, and the valuable information obtained will help continue to grow the NKCES Team.

**CLAG, January 12:** 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.

**KY Superintendent Webcast, January 12:** 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.

**GROW NKY meeting with Lieutenant Governor Coleman, Education Commissioner Dr. Glass, and Dr. Thompson, January 14:** Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting as requested by GROW. The discussion focused on the collaborative work of NKY to highlight KTECH, NKY Connector, E3Career Platform, and the region's work with the Work Ethic Diploma and Portrait of a Graduate.

**Professional Learning Consortium, January 15:** 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 participated in a zoom meeting with the state's Education Cooperative Executive Directors to discuss the #TellingOurStoryKY initiative and next steps to keep the momentum on social media.

**Monthly KDE-Led Education Cooperative Director Meeting, January 25:** 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.



**KDE Healthy Schools/ Cooperative Updates and Planning, January 26:** Executive Director Razor participated in a virtual conversation led by KDE to touch base on the mini-grants created to assist in the social and emotional health in students. Each cooperative director shared the creative opportunities that have been designed for each region.

**WIB, January 26:** Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting as requested by the Workforce Investment Board. The discussion focused on the collaborative work of NKY to highlight KTECH, NKY Connector, and the region’s work with the Work Ethic Diploma and Portrait of a Graduate. The Executive Director of WIB requested the meeting to learn more about the work we are doing as a region and to offer her support of our collaborative efforts.

**Special Education Update:**

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on Tuesday, January 19th. The NKCES DoSE meeting was held on Friday, January 22nd. We discussed suggestions for summer trainings, reviewed the IDEA Monitoring Document that was recently released by KDE, and viewed the new KYDOSE Support Website that the state special education directors maintain as a resource for all KY DoSE.

The Preschool Coordinators meeting was held on January 27th. Mrs. Becky Nixon and Ms. Alysia Wedding from Anderson County RTC shared KDE updates and resources surrounding early childhood.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the January State Directors Meeting with OSEEL on January 12th. The IDEA consultants attended their respective monthly state group meetings. Mrs. Becky Nixon leads the state Low Incidence Task Group.

Mrs. Becky Nixon trained 20 new special education directors as part of her role with KYCASE. The training was held on January 25th. Training topics were state reporting requirements and preparation, COVID national and state resources, and strategies on self-care and employee self-care.

Dr. Laura Clarke attended the Kentucky Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (KYCCBD) Planning Committee meeting on January 14th and the 21st. The group has developed bi-monthly sessions for special education teachers and other education professionals to support remote instruction and teacher well-being during the pandemic.

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 January 9th and January 20th. Participants increased their understanding of the most effective practices to support learning and social emotional needs for struggling students in a virtual environment.

Dr. Laura Clarke and Barb Wietlisbach attended the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) National Conference which was held virtually January 24-28th. They have already begun sharing resources with districts.

Dr. Laura Clarke presented at KDE Administrator Ed Camp on January 13th. The title of her session was “Developing School Tools for Culturally Responsive Teaching and Anti-Racism.”

The IDEA team released seven new modules to support substitute teachers on a new platform piloted by Ms. Amelia Brown. The new YouTube Channel is called “Just for You: Substitute Teachers.”

Ms. Kim Snowball organized a three-part training series called “K-12 Everything You Need for Mathematics Coaching” by Dr. Maggie McGatha. This series is in collaboration with the other eight special education cooperatives. The first session is completely full with 300 participants. Those participants who attend the first session will receive Dr. McGatha’s book for free.

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 January, these resources focused on ARC compliance, digital literacy, and evidence-based interventions.

### **OVR Update**

**Pre-ETS Workshops:** Linda Lane continues 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. The Interviewing Skills Intensive at Boone County High School is going very well. To enhance learning, students practice in breakout rooms supported by Linda and Boone County staff.

**Cody Clark, A Different Way of Thinking Workshop Series:** Magician and Autism Self-Advocate Cody Clark will be a guest presenter for workshops on Feb. 11, 18, and Mar. 4. At our request, Cody is creating new content and activities designed specifically for students in MSD classrooms. To learn more or request additional appearances, please contact [linda.lane@nkces.org](mailto:linda.lane@nkces.org).

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

**January Professional Learning:** NKCES supported a total of 170 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of January, serving 1410 educators.

**NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform** has proudly served more than 22,715 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 January 15. *Telling Our Story Kentucky* resources were shared with districts to promote public education. Amelia Brown updated the group on the Substitute Teacher training which is currently available for districts to utilize. Shellie Baker provided an update on the KY Youth Apprenticeship initiative. The wealth of upcoming professional learning opportunities were shared.

**Title I & Title II Meeting:** The Title directors met on January 15 to work collaboratively and support each other as districts maneuver through the implementation of the Title programming. The Declaration of Participation timeline was established and shared with the Diocese of Covington educators.

**DAC Consortium:** NKCES hosted DAC Consortium on January 19. These meetings are the epitome of regional collaboration.

**Book Study:** NKCES consultants are offering an interdisciplinary book study on Tomlinson's new *How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms*. We have 52 participants registered from 13 districts - This exciting response includes a diverse blend of gifted teachers, special education teachers, EL teachers, classroom teachers, administrators, and more! The group will meet monthly via Zoom led by EL consultants Daniele Novak and Heather Ralphes and special education consultant Merissa Waddey.

**January Professional Learning Networks (PLNs):** Our PLNs in January included: NKAGE, Physical Education, Homeless Coordinators, Media Specialists, Community Learning Centers, Culturally Responsive Teaching, Instructional Coaches, and Visual and Performing Arts. PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning.

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

RSP returned to in-person hybrid learning on January 11th, 2021.

We are currently hosting two new interns from NKU. They are both from the social work program. One will be with us until March, the other intern will be with us until May. One of our interns from the fall put together "Remote Learning Took Kits" for families. We are putting the final touches on them and will be delivering soon. (Kits include items such as: fidgets, schedule templates, supplies, mindfulness, etc)

The next Regional Alternative Program (RAP) meeting will be held on February 24th.

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

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, have continued to work with students in-person and virtually. They are co-hosting a book study with Dr. Merissa Waddey based on the book *How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms* which began this month and will meet monthly through May. The EL Consultants are preparing for ACCESS testing, which is scheduled to begin in March. They will attend virtual SIOP training with EL teachers throughout the region on February 18th, 19th, 24th, and 25th.

**NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):**

The NKIAE Steering Committee met on January 5 to begin planning the 2021-22 Program: Integrating the Arts with Social Studies. Information will be released in mid-February.

On January 9, Joe Bertucci led a mid-year workshop to review and help regional teams implement arts-integrated units in the spring semester.

Mr. Bertucci led the regional Visual & Performing Arts PLN meeting on January 21. Topics included technology tips, community arts resources, and generating student dialogue in the arts classroom.

On January 24, NKIAE teachers attended a virtual concert and talk-back session with the Cincinnati Youth Choir: *Managing the Creative Process in a Digital World*.

Mr. Bertucci met with teachers at Southern Elementary, Ft. Wright Elementary, Dayton High School, Mary Goetz Elementary, and Newport High School to help plan arts-integrated units. Mr. Bertucci also observed and provided feedback on arts-integrated lessons to teachers at Grandview Elementary, Dayton High School, and Miles Elementary.

Mr. Bertucci is developing a regional plan for the new Assistance for Arts Education grant.

### **Grant Consortium Update:**

#### **District Grant Reports**

Covington applied for AIM High funding for middle school after school programming through New York Life.

#### **Grants in Progress**

McKinney Vento Homeless Education. Covington, Dayton (with Southgate and Bellevue), and Newport are working on this grant due March 5

Full Service Community Schools. Districts are planning. Due March 1.

Assistance for Arts Education. In planning for a regional proposal. Due March 16.

CIGNA. Ludlow and Williamstown are working on proposals. Due February 26.

Children Affected by Opioids. Diane described this allotment available to us for up to \$400,000 for schools in Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties to support needs of children affected or at risk of being affected by someone's opioid use. She noted that this would be a good collaboration with FRYSC staff, Homeless Coordinators, and School Counselors. Meeting is set for February 9 at 8:30 am to determine how the money can be spent. Plan due February 15.

#### **In Implementation**

Innovative Approaches to Literacy. The grants are in their final year and making decisions about no-cost extensions. River Country Readers is planning to avoid the no-cost extension.

Professional Development for Arts Educators. Joe Bertucci is beginning planning and recruiting for next year's Social Studies participants and wrapping up the Science year, observing lessons.

Project Prevent is moving smoothly and expecting to pick up momentum once students are back in school buildings.

Strategic Prevention Framework (Regional) is planning to provide two trainings per month; one for mental health and one for substance abuse prevention issues. These will be posted on the NKCES website for GC members' registration. They mentioned their Let's Talk About It Campaign and asked for help with their contact list.

Positive Action We are working toward resolving Federal requirements to release funds for this grant. We just received some new requirements as of yesterday. More info to come.

#### **Reports**

SPF EE and SPF Regional Continuation applications due February 4

Positive Action Semi Annual Progress Report delayed at the Federal level to Feb 28

#### **News**

VSA Kennedy Center Professional Development Program contracts were signed. Training is scheduled for March 2 and March 4. Supplies will be available to participants through curbside pickup. Watch for more information coming from Joe Bertucci for this arts training.

#### **Pending**

KDE Comprehensive Literacy

21st Century Community Learning Centers grants were scored on schedule. Districts need to have information about funding of these programs to manage budgeting for next year, so we are hoping the funder will meet their goal to announce by April.

NEXT MEETING: March 2, 2020, 8:30 a.m.