

NKCES Report – February 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.



Telling Our Story KY, Interview, February 2: As a Campbell County High School Alumni, Executive Director Amy Razor was honored to share her positive experiences while attending Campbell County Public Schools on their first #TellingOurStoryKY podcast.

Apprenticeship, February 6 Executive Director Razor connected with KTECH (Youth Apprenticeship), NKY Connector, Learning Grove and GROW to learn about the work to create opportunities for students.

NKCES Finance & Facilities Meeting, February 4: Executive Director Razor meets monthly with Business Manager Ms. Angie Perkins, to discuss plans, set goals and prioritize budgetary items.

Healthy Schools Discussion, February 8: 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 of students. Each cooperative director shared the creative opportunities that have been designed for each region. KDE Staff highlighted the PLN networks (specifically the P.E. PLN) as a model for an authentic framework for building teacher capacity.

CLAG, February 9: Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting to stay informed of current events in Campbell County (Topics range from education to real estate to business).

KY Superintendent Webcast, February 9: Executive Director Razor attended the regularly scheduled monthly 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.

KASS Weekly Legislative Briefing with KAEC, February 12, 19, 26: Dr. Flynn established weekly virtual meetings with the eight Education Cooperatives across the state to share the latest developments during the legislative session. The updates are helpful as he provides recommendations and news on the most recent activity.

KAEC CRSSA Discussion, February 16: Executive Director Razor participated in a virtual meeting with members of KAEC to discuss the potential for CRSSA funds to be given to each Education Cooperative to create acceleration/gap closure support for educators and in turn students in Kentucky.

AESA, New Executive Council Member Orientation, February 16: Executive Razor was newly appointed to the 2021 AESA Executive Council. As part of this appointment, Ms. Razor participated in new member orientation over a course of 3 days. The experience was very informative and has set Ms. Razor up for a successful term.

Youth Apprenticeship, February 18: Executive Director Razor participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Shellie Baker and Ms. Diane Hatfield to address needed updates to the grant as



requested by the state. The work session continued to focus on the goal of partnering with outside organizations to create opportunities in the healthcare sector for students in Northern Kentucky School Districts.

Professional Learning Consortium, February 19: Executive Director Razor attended the virtual PL Consortium meeting led by Ms. Diane Hatfield to stay current on the needs of our region. She shared updates on Youth Apprenticeship, Telling Our Story, and General Q & A of the group. This conversation provided a lens of how NKCES can continue to adapt to provide support for the region through this crisis.

Monthly KDE-Led Education Cooperative Director Meeting, February 22: 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.

Monthly NKCES Virtual Connect Call with Superintendent, February 22: NKCES Superintendents and Executive Director Razor joined together to discuss the current impact of COVID 19 on their districts.

KAEC CRRSA Discussion, February 23: KAEC held a working session to create a framework to share with the commissioner. This framework will guide the work of the team and can be personalized by each region's needs.

Advocacy Chair, Superintendent Borchers, Meeting, February 24: The NKCES Superintendent and Executive Director Razor connected virtually to learn more about current legislation being discussed at the capitol and develop a plan to ensure their voice was heard on behalf of all students.

NKCES, Youth Apprenticeship, GROW, Learning Grove, February 26: Executive Director Razor connected virtually with the teams leading the work to bring work experiences to students in our region. To ensure the board of directors is kept informed and up to date on current work, the team that were present on the call have agreed to complete a portion of a report to show the outcomes generated in any given month for students.

Special Education Update:

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on Wednesday, February 17th. The NKCES DoSE meeting was held on Friday, February 26th. We discussed the upcoming plan for record reviews, Alternate Assessment, and Surrogate Training. Discussion included ARC documentation compliance, legal updates from Julie Weatherly, as well as the University of Louisville Alternative Certification Programs for special education and preschool.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the February State Directors Meeting with OSEEL on February 9th. The IDEA consultants attended their respective monthly state group meetings. Mrs. Becky Nixon leads the state Low Incidence Task Group.

Becky Nixon and Dr. Merissa Waddey attended Julie Weatherly's training on compensatory education on February 23rd. This PowerPoint plus resources were shared with our Directors of Special Education during our February DoSE Meeting.

Becky Nixon and Diane Hatfield held a VI (Visual Impairment) Meeting on February 25th with districts that are utilizing our Visual Impairment services. We discussed current services and finishing the current year strong and began planning/discussing districts intent for participation for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Laura Clarke and Becky Nixon hosted an ARC Chair Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines Training for the region on February 17th. This training was then developed into an online training module and added to our online learning site.

Dr. Laura Clarke and Becky Nixon put together an Indicator 11 (Timely Initial Evaluation of Students for Special Education Services) Training for The KDE. This training will be used across the state when districts do not meet 100% compliance with Indicator 11. Dr. Laura Clarke did a wonderful job of doing the voice-over for this training to turn the training into an online module.

Becky Nixon is pleased to be mentoring Dr. Merissa Waddey as she is completing her practicum to complete her Director of Special Education certification. Dr. Waddey will be completing multiple tasks that will benefit the Directors of Special Education across our region.

Dr. Laura Clarke attended the Kentucky Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (KYCCBD) Planning Committee meeting on February 18th and 24th. These meetings focused on planning for the March Educator Tuesdays Sessions. Both March sessions are centered around issues of equity.

The IDEA team released eight new online modules. These modules have been added to our online learning site. In addition to the new trainings, the site now has new tabs and trainings for “New Teachers,” for “General Education Teachers” and a sub tab under Special Education for “ARC Chairs.”

Ms. Kim Snowball continued coordinating the second session of 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.

Dr. Laura Clarke coordinated two writing workshops with Dr. Shawn Datchuk from the University of Iowa. These sessions focused on progress monitoring writing with fidelity and evidence based writing interventions for students in RtI and students with disabilities.

Dr. Merissa Waddey and Dr. Laura Clarke participated in multiple professional development sessions with Indiana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and Ohio CEC. Dr. Laura Clarke participated in sessions with Dr. Caroline Musselwhite that focused on emerging reading and writing for students on Alternate Assessment.

Dr. Merissa Waddey led our quarterly Special Education Teachers’ PLN Make & Take on February 17th – this month’s focus was executive functioning. Participants from five districts learned about basic executive functioning skills and then developed visual supports for focusing attention and impulse control. This year’s PLN sessions have focused on tools that can be used both for in-person and virtual instruction. Our final PLN of the year will be April 21st with a focus on visual supports for literacy and math.

Dr. Merissa Waddey presented the three Special Education Teacher of the Year finalists and announced the Teacher Of the Year winner Savannah Boone (LaRue County) at the Kentucky Board of Education meeting on February 3rd. She also awarded Gretta Hylton with the Mary May Wyman Outstanding Member of the Year award.

Dr. Merissa Waddey led a Professional Learning Network session with the KYCEC Executive Board on February 4th. The topic was Making the Most of Your Membership, and board members shared tips for

getting involved in professional learning, advocacy, and securing mini-grants for classroom use. The recording of the session is available at <https://community.cec.sped.org/kycec/home>.

Mrs. Becky Nixon shared the monthly IDEA newsletter to DoSEs for February. The newsletter was filled with strategies and resources in the area of math, literacy, behavior, transition, assistive technology, and compliance. Dr. Laura Clarke and Dr. Merissa Waddey sent various information and resources via regional teacher distribution lists that support instruction for students with disabilities.

OVR Update

Pre-ETS Workshops: Students participating in the Interviewing Skills Intensive at Boone County High School worked to perfect their answers and delivery as they prepared for mock interviews, which took place on Feb. 25. All efforts paid off as students demonstrated positive body language, listening skills, and communicated their abilities to the job opportunity. Students will conclude the learning experience by writing thank you notes, reflecting on evaluations, and celebrating their successes.

Spring Transition Presentations: Linda Lane is currently scheduling live and/or virtual visits from the following presenters for March and April on a first come, first serve basis.

- Cody Clark, A Different Way of Thinking Workshop Series
- Ted Wiese (you may remember him from the Receptions event “The Power of Teamwork)
- Steve Tressler, Automotive Apprenticeship Group

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

February Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 153 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of February, serving 1753 educators.

NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform has proudly served more than 24,050 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 February 19. *Telling Our Story Kentucky* resources were shared with districts to promote public education. Amelia Brown updated the group on the Substitute Teacher training which continues to add training opportunities. Shellie Baker provided an update on the KY Youth Apprenticeship initiative and the [My CareerE3 platform](#). Joe Bertucci provided an NKIAE update sharing the plans for this summer [Integrating the Arts with Social Studies](#). The wealth of upcoming professional learning opportunities were shared.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The Title directors met on February 19 to work collaboratively and support each other as districts maneuver through the implementation of the Title programming.

DAC Consortium: NKCES hosted DAC Consortium on February 16. These meetings are the epitome of regional collaboration.

Book Study: The NKCES book study on Carol Tomlinson’s latest *How to Differentiate in Academically Diverse Classrooms* met for the 2nd session on Feb. 16th via Zoom. Daniele Novak, Heather Ralphes, and

Merissa Wadley co-led each session, and this month they incorporated breakout rooms, Poll Everywhere, and Zoom annotation tools to engage participants in discussion. One participant shared, “This PD has surpassed my expectations. I love listening to the content that is presented, and find myself actually engaged which is something that after a long day is hard sometimes! I like the additional resources and that the PD isn't just a download of information but asks questions that make you think!”

Co-Teaching for Administrators: Merissa Wadley led a 2-part series Co-Teaching for Administrators via Zoom. Administrators from seven of our districts participated in this training that focused on establishing and communicating a clear vision for co-teaching, equipping all stakeholders for effective implementation, and developing an action plan. The sessions were recorded and are now available on our Professional Learning Online Site or CoTeaching for Administrators Part 1:

<http://bit.ly/NKCESCoTeach1> and CoTeaching for Administrators Part 2: <http://bit.ly/NKCESCoTeach2>.

Parent Resources: Mathematics Coach, Kim Snowball, created two parent online modules [Financial Literacy](#) and [A Day at Dollar General...Learn While Shopping](#) which are located on the [Parent Support Site](#).

February Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): Our PLNs in February included: NKAGE, Physical Education, 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:

Regional School Programs had their advisory board meeting on February 2nd. RSP will return to 5 days of in-person instruction on March 8th.

Our “Remote Learning Toolkits” were delivered. (Kits include items such as: fidgets, schedule templates, supplies, mindfulness, etc). RSP, with Lorie Duffy from TLC in Covington, hosted the virtual Regional Alternative Program (RAP) meeting on February 24th. Great discussion occurred and with assistance from KDE, we plan to host a guest at our next meeting in April to discuss bringing in more exposure to dual credit/post-secondary education options for alternative school populations.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, have continued to work with students in-person and virtually, and will now begin ACCESS testing in districts. The ACCESS testing window is from March 1 through April 23. They co-hosted the second meeting of the book study with Dr. Merissa Wadley based on the book *How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms*, which will meet monthly through May. The EL Consultants hosted the virtual SIOP Training of Trainers by the Center for Applied Linguistics with classroom and EL teachers and EL directors throughout the region on February 18th, 19th, 24th, and 25th. Daniele Novak created an online module that reviews the basics for working with English Learners.

NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

Eligible schools can now apply for the **2021-22 Program: Integrating the Arts with Social Studies**.

Information can be found [here](#). Tiffany Gruen has joined the Steering Committee as our Social Studies content specialist. The Steering Committee met on February 10 to begin planning the upcoming professional learning.

On February 6, NKIAE partnered with Pones, Inc. to offer a virtual **Arts In Healing Workshop** for teachers.

On February 9-11, Joe Bertucci attended the **Kennedy Center’s Partners In Education** virtual conference, collaborating with Alissa Paasch, Education Director at The Carnegie, and Kim Thomson, PD Coordinator in Boone County Schools, to develop professional learning for arts educators in the 2021-22 school year.

Mr. Bertucci **observed arts-integrated lessons and provided feedback** to teachers at Ft. Wright Elementary, Lindeman Elementary, and Mary Goetz Elementary.

In partnership with the Kennedy Center’s VSA Program, Mr. Bertucci and Merissa Wadley are offering two virtual workshops in March: [Accessibility In The Arts](#) and [Accessibility Through The Arts](#).

Mr. Bertucci is developing a regional plan, in collaboration with the Grants Consortium, for the new **Assistance for Arts Education federal grant**.

Grant Consortium Update:

Children Impacted by Opioids opportunity Marjie Stanek and Liz Morales described particulars of funding available to work on behalf of Boone, Kenton, or Campbell county children on the court docket or at risk of being on the court docket for Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse. The Children’s Law Center currently provides a social worker, Eric “Ricky” Rodenberg. Districts with need can contact the project at marjorie.stanek@ky.gov or 502-564-8295 or liz.morales@ky.gov or 502-564-8297. Anyone interested in being included in stakeholder meetings can contact Eric “Ricky” Rodenberg, the social worker at the Children’s Law Center, at 859-431-3313 or erodenberg@childrenslawky.org. He also is available to provide services to children who meet the definition above, so districts can reach out to him to make initial contact or referral.

The group decided this opportunity looks most interesting as a potential school or district mini-grant, rather than as a regional effort, due to the widely varying needs and capacity in the various districts along with issues of confidentiality for children involved. Anyone who has currently identified children and would like this support can contact Marjie, Liz, or Ricky.

Assistance for Arts Education planning Joe Bertucci reviewed the current planning for the next iteration of NKIAE, with an application due March 16. Grants Consortium members will be seeing a survey in the next day or two. Please send it on to appropriate people in your district. Any comments or questions, contact Vicki.dansberry@nkces.org or Joe.bertucci@nkces.org.

Grants in Progress

McKinney Vento Homeless Education: Vicki is currently working with Newport, Covington, and Dayton (including Bellevue and Southgate). Due March 5

Full Service Community Schools: Covington and Bellevue-Southgate submitted.

Assistance for Arts Education: In planning.

Children Impacted by Opioids: Discussion goes on; districts agreed a mini-grant direct to districts might be best.

RC Durr Technology for Rural Districts: Available to rural districts, due April.

In implementation

Innovative Approaches to Literacy districts will be wrapping up this grant this year. Progress is ongoing and schools and students are enjoying the books and other supports of the project.

Professional Development for Arts Educators Joe discussed the new year, ready for Social Studies teachers

to apply. Here is the link to more information. [2021-22: Integrating the Arts with Social Studies](#). Please distribute this info to your Social Studies teachers and arts teachers if you are a district that qualifies with 5-% Free and Reduced lunch status (the list is on the link). This is the final year of the grant that has been so well received. We are all looking forward to providing targeted training for Social Studies teachers and teachers of the arts!

Project Prevent This is really picking up steam in both Covington and Erlanger with many projects finding their feet.

Strategic Prevention Framework Ashleigh and Kristen shared a list of their major efforts. At the next Steering Committee (March 11) they will discuss distribution of the Talk They Listen handouts and multiple efforts of their project,

Positive Action This project is still stalled at the Federal level. Vicki sent in the report they required and continues to pursue resolution to the roadblocks as much as is possible at this level.

Pending

KDE Comprehensive Literacy

21st CCLC

Full Service Community Schools

NEXT MEETING: May 4, 8:30 a.m.