

NKCES Report – March 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.



CONNECT
GROW
SERVE

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

KAEC CRSSA Discussion, March 1: 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.

NKYEC Virtual Meeting, March 2: Dr. Poe requested quarterly check-in meetings with Executive Director Razor to discuss alignment of these respective organizations to generate opportunities for students created by business partnerships through NKYEC. Dr. Poe was complimentary to the offerings NKCES has to offer our region and looks forward to what we can do together.

KAEC CRSSA Virtual Meeting with Commissioner Glass, March 2: Executive Director Razor participated in a virtual meeting with members of KAEC to share their united proposal to receive the CRRSA funds and how the cooperatives collectively intend to use the funds to close the learning gap created by the COVID 19 pandemic.

NKYEC Board Meeting, March 3: Executive Director Razor and several NKY superintendents attended the meeting virtually. Dr. Poe complemented NKCES and the work being done to create and execute opportunities for teachers and students.

KASA, Education Law and Finance Conference, March 3-5: Executive Director Razor, along with many educational leaders in the state, attended the conference in Louisville, KY. The conference's agenda was full of knowledgeable speakers and breakout sessions. It was great to be in person to network with colleagues!

CLAG, March 9: Executive Director Razor attended the virtual meeting to stay informed of current events in Campbell County. Topics included: education, real estate, new businesses to the area

KY Superintendent Webcast, March 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.

KAEC CRSSA Discussion with Commissioner Glass, March 10: Executive Director Razor participated in a virtual meeting with members of KAEC to share a statewide proposal developed by KAEC to create standard roles and responsibilities for positions that would be funded by ESSER funds through each Education Cooperative. The positions will provide acceleration/gap closure support for educators and in turn students in Kentucky. Commissioner Glass approved the KAEC plan which will be taken to each Cooperative's Board of Directors to gain their support.

NKCES Finance/Facilities Meeting, March 11: Each month Executive Director Razor and Ms. Angie Perkins meet to plan for future expenses and prioritize any facility needs.

maintenance.

KASS Weekly Legislative Briefing with KAEC, March 12, 25: KASS Executive Director, 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.

KASA, Women in Education Leadership, March 18-19: Executive Director Razor attended the March Forum in Louisville, Ky. To witness another group of outstanding female educational leaders come together to support and grow one another's knowledge and self confidence to pursue executive level roles in education is a great step forward for our state.

Monthly KDE-Led Education Cooperative Director Meeting, March 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.

KDE March Leadership Meeting, March 23: Executive Director Razor attended this meeting to hear updates from KDE department leads. A presentation was given on the overview of the upcoming state-wide curriculum meetings. Cooperatives were also asked to help promote the Commissioner's upcoming statewide convenings(virtual).

NKYEC Spring Convening, Taking Action in NKY to Improve Education Outcomes March 24: Executive Director Razor, along with several NKCES Superintendents, and supporters of public education attended the virtual convening led by Executive Director of NKYEC, Dr. Randy Poe. Dr. Rich Gilman presented the Ready and Resilient by Design data. The Panel Discussion Group answered questions based on the presentations.

Monthly NKCES Virtual Connect Call with Superintendents, March 29: NKCES Superintendents and Executive Director Razor joined together to discuss the current impact of legislative decisions and possible next steps for districts.

AESA 2021 Spring Executive Council Meeting, March 29 & 30: Executive Director Razor participated in the virtual Board Meeting with the AESA council members representing each region across the United States. The council also participated in a redesign session with Susan Leddick where they went into breakout rooms and discussed specific topics in smaller groups then reported out to the larger group their findings. A strategic plan will be created based on these discussion sessions for the next 5 years to grow the work of AESA to support all cooperatives.

Special Education Update:

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on Thursday, March 18th. The NKCES DoSE meeting was held on Friday, March 26th. Johnny Collett, Deputy Director of the UK Human Development Institute, attended the March DoSE Meeting to discuss and share resources on Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs in Kentucky. Other topics of discussion included ARC documentation compliance regarding Local Education Agency (LEA) Representatives and Manifestation Determination. The May DoSE meeting will be held in person at Ralph Rush. This will be our first meeting in person since the pandemic.

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

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the Kentucky Council of Administrators of Special Education (KYCASE) Executive Board Meeting on March 22nd. She gave a report to the board on the IDEA work of the eight educational cooperatives. KYCASE is planning to have their Summer Institute in-person July 18-20th.

Mrs. Becky Nixon, along with her KYCASE Executive Board Member colleagues, hosted and facilitated a Medicaid Training geared for new Directors of Special Education (DoSE). This training was geared to DoSE who were in their first or second year. In addition, the DoSE could bring any person(s) who assist them in the Medicaid billing process.

Mrs. Becky Nixon and Dr. Merissa Waddey participated in Julie Weatherly's Quarterly Legal Update Review. This legal update was hosted by the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE).

Dr. Laura Clarke and Mrs. Becky Nixon added two new online modules for ARC Chairs. One for new ARC Chairs and one specifically for Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines.

Dr. Merissa Waddey and Dr. Laura Clarke participated in the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children (KYCEC) Spring Board Meeting. Dr. Merissa Waddey is the organization's past president and Dr. Laura Clarke is the current vice-president.

Dr. Laura Clarke participated in two planning meetings for the Kentucky Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (KYCCBD) Virtual Behavior Institute. This year's institute will be June 16-18th. This institute will be free for all educators. Dr. John O'Connor will be one of the featured speakers.

Dr. Laura Clarke also participated in the Council for Exceptional Children's Complex and Chronic Conditions Board Meeting. She is the groups Advocacy Coordinator.

Mrs. Becky Nixon, along with the IDEA consultants, attended this year's Council for Exceptional Children's Convention virtually. We will have ongoing access to the 1,000+ sessions through June. Highlights included watching 3 of our Kentucky students with exceptional needs be honored with National Yes I Can! Awards - only 12 were awarded across the nation! Mrs. Nixon and the coaches divided and conquered the many tracks to gather the latest research-based practices for co-teaching, transition, low incidence, literacy, supporting student social emotional learning, self-care strategies for special educators and so much more.

Dr. Laura Clarke, as part of her work on IDEA's Indicator 9 and 10, which focus on disproportionate representation of racial/ethnic groups, completed the Train-the-Trainer workshop for "Confronting White Nationalism in Schools" which she will be sharing in her work with the Culturally Responsive Teaching PLN. This training provided resources that schools can use to increase awareness and reduce bullying and racial discrimination in our schools and communities.

Mrs. Barb Wietlisbach, Mrs. Becky Nixon, and Dr. Laura Clarke met with several national Speech Language Pathologist speakers to discuss options in bringing new sessions to NKCES specific to communication concerns of students with low incidence disabilities.

Over 40 new teachers representing nine different Northern Kentucky districts have been involved in the 2020/2021 NKCES New Teacher Academy. This year, consultants reimaged the New Teacher Academy to a virtual model including a choice board of eight asynchronous learning opportunities and three live synchronous learning opportunities. New teachers also have access to the New Teacher Academy

website with additional resources, schedules, and contact information for further support from consultants.

Mrs. Becky Nixon shared the monthly IDEA newsletter to DoSE for March. The newsletter was filled with strategies and resources in the areas 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

OVR Update, March 2021

Pre-ETS Workshops: Continuing our partnership that began in February, magician and self-advocate Cody Clark is visiting virtual classrooms to present his three-part series on successful “adulting”. High school students from Beechwood, Bracken County, Simon Kenton, and Lloyd participated. In partnership with CKEC, students from Anderson County, Powell County, Mercer, and Lafayette in Central Kentucky are participating.

Spring Transition Presentations:

- Cody Clark – Scott and Boone County High Schools
- Steve Tressler – Boone County High School, Regional Schools Program
- Ted Weise – Scott High School

Summer Work-Based Learning:

In partnership with Lookout Hills Farm and Lynn Baldwin, we plan to offer an in-person outdoors work-based learning experience for students that are exploring careers in horse, animal, and stable care. Enrollment will be limited to five students.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

March Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 150 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of March, serving 1,328 educators.

NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform has proudly served more than 24,951 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 March 19. Shellie Baker provided an update on the KY Youth Apprenticeship initiative and the [My CareerE3 platform](#). Ashleigh DuBois and Kristen Haddad provided an update on the [Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention](#). Additional parent modules have been added to the [Parent Resource Site](#). Districts are asked to complete the survey to provide the number needed of the Essential Workplace Ethics Certificates. The wealth of upcoming professional learning opportunities were shared.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The Title directors met on March 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 March 16. These meetings are the epitome of regional collaboration.

Everything You Need for Mathematics Coaching was a joint effort with nine Kentucky Cooperatives working as a team to bring mathematics leaders together to provide opportunities to learn about and grow their Mathematics Coaching skills. Participants received their own copies of the book to continue the work using the amazing tools created with math teachers/leaders in mind. Below is just a sampling of the comments principal, instructional coaches, and math leaders shared with us after the last session was completed.

"I enjoyed having the book, chunking it for instruction and having the opportunity to collaborate with others." "I really appreciated the opportunity to dive into the practices and tools with other educators." "I really enjoyed the breakout rooms." "Having Maggie summarize and go in depth on parts of the book." "Having materials ahead of time and the book as a full resource!" and finally... "It was a chance to discuss with other educators in the state. Also, having the handouts and book was helpful to write notes on."

IEP Present Levels: Data Analysis Deeper Dive: Planning for Spring ARCs: Laura Clarke & Merissa Waddey led a work session with a group of five special education teachers on March 17th. Participants heard best practices in data-driven present levels of academic & functional performance in the IEP, and in small breakout sessions they shared challenges and potential solutions in collecting and using data for spring ARC meetings. Participants also received a copy of The Data Collection Toolkit, and another follow-up session will be held to further explore this resource.

Amy Cunningham: March 25 was a day full of opportunity to address compassion, stress and resiliency. National speaker Amy Cunningham presented three sessions to support educators, including: Stress and Resiliency; Resilience Solutions: How to Take Care of Your Teachers; and Compassion Fatigue and Resiliency. All three were made possible through a grant received by KDE and shared with cooperatives from the Centers for Disease Control to address social and emotional needs.

Parent Resources: Mathematics Coach, Kim Snowball, created two parent online modules, [Financial Literacy](#) and [A Day at Dollar General...Learn While Shopping](#). Literacy Coach, Amelia Brown, created two parent online modules, [Building Your Child's Vocabulary: Tips for Preschool Families](#) and [Building Your Child's Vocabulary: Tips for Elementary Families](#). Professional Learning Coach, Merissa Waddey, created two parent online modules [Cultivating Readers](#) and [A Parent's Guide to Growth Mindset](#). All of these parent modules are located on the [Parent Support Site](#).

March Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): Our PLNs in March included: Assistive Technology, Media Specialist, Community Learning Centers, 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:

Regional School Programs returned to five days per week of in-person instruction on March 8th, it has been wonderful to see our students back full time.

Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Carr presented the instructional spotlight at the March 10th Board Meeting. RSP's spring break is April 5th-9th; and we have scheduled some lock updates to occur during that time to bring the program further into meeting safety protocols.

RSP, with Lorie Duffy from TLC in Covington, will host our final virtual Regional Alternative Program (RAP) meeting for this school year on April 14th. We will have a guest discussing dual credit opportunities.

Please share the meeting information with anyone in your district who would like to attend. Details can be found on the NKCES event calendar.

We are drafting our testing schedule for May and will keep everyone informed if assistance may be needed for proctors.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, are completing ACCESS testing in the EL Program districts. The ACCESS testing window is from March 1 through April 23. They co-hosted the third meeting of the book study with Dr. Merissa Waddey based on the book *How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms*, which will meet monthly through May.

NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

Participants in the current Arts/Science cohort completed the program with 40 hours of professional learning.

Eligible schools can now apply for the **2021-22 Program: Integrating the Arts with Social Studies**. Information can be found [here](#). The Steering Committee met on March 5. Social-emotional learning through the arts will now be included in the upcoming professional learning.

Mr. Joe Bertucci **observed arts-integrated lessons and provided feedback** to teachers at Newport High School, Mary Goetz Elementary, Boone County High School, Southgate School, and Tichenor Middle School.

On March 18, Mr. Bertucci led the **Visual & Performing Arts PLN** meeting, with a focus on collaboration in and through the arts.

On March 30, Mr. Bertucci and Merissa Waddey led a virtual workshop for general and special educators in partnership with the Kennedy Center's VSA Program: **Accessibility Through The Arts**.

In collaboration with Vicki Dansberry and the Grants Consortium, Mr. Bertucci developed a proposal for the new **Assistance for Arts Education federal grant**.

Grant Consortium Update:

Assistance for Arts Education This application, originally due March 16, had a deadline extension from Washington and will be submitted before April 15. We will be requesting nearly \$7 million over the next five years to support training and materials to support arts education.

Grants in Progress

McKinney Vento Homeless Education: Newport, Covington, and Dayton (including Bellevue and Southgate) submitted grants by the deadline.

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

Assistance for Arts Education: To be submitted in April.

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

Grants 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 Social Studies teachers from eligible schools should 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 50% 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 submitted their Interim Performance Report a day ahead of schedule! They continue to build relationships and support for substance misuse prevention in our districts. They are scheduling visits to districts, starting with the rural districts.

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 Century Community Learning Centers
Full Service Community Schools
McKinney Vento Homeless Program

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