

NKCES Report – April 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

GRANT COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT



NKCES Finance/Facilities Meeting, April 1: Each month Executive Director Amy Razor and Ms. Angie Perkins meet to plan for future expenses and prioritize any facility needs.

KASS Weekly Legislative Briefing with KAEC, April 2: KASS Executive Director, Dr. Jim Flynn established weekly virtual meetings with the eight Education Cooperatives across the state to share the latest developments during the legislative session.

NKCES Monthly Team Meeting, April 12: Executive Director Razor led the NKCES virtual team meeting where she updated the team on both regional and state information along with upcoming events. This also provides the team members time to share highlights and successes of upcoming work.

KDE Healthy Schools/ Cooperative Updates and Planning, April, 12: 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 for students. Each cooperative director shared the creative opportunities that have been designed for each region. NKCES was highlighted for their work with PLNs.

CLAG, April 13: 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.

Regional School Program Advisory Board Meeting, April 13: Executive Director Razor attended the meeting which was led by Ms. Stephanie Turner, Principal, to participate in the conversation regarding student enrollment and limited slots due to decreased enrollment for the 21-22 school year. A follow-up meeting was held with the superintendents and a plan was developed.

KY Superintendent Webcast, April 13: Executive Director Razor attended the regularly scheduled monthly webcast led by the Education Commissioner, Dr. Jason 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.

Education Continuum Focus Group Planning Meeting, Ms. Amanda Ellis, April 15: Executive Director Razor participated in a virtual meeting led by Ms. Amanda Ellis. The intent of the call was to request the state cooperatives support to host focus groups. NKCES will host K-12 Teachers, School and District Administrators, and students in May 2021. The topics will include: Planning and paying for college, dual credit and college preparatory opportunities, diversifying the teacher workforce. The information collected from these focus groups will be extraordinarily helpful!

PL Consortium, April 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 conversation provided a lens of how NKCES can continue to adapt to provide support for the region through this crisis.

American Fidelity, April 16: Executive Director Razor engaged in a conversation with Ms. Rebecca Combs regarding NKCES's move to Houchin Benefits. The conversation was productive with a goal of both parties to make the transition as smooth as possible. NKCES appreciates the partnership and years of dedication.

NKCES celebrates Administrative Professionals Day, April 21: The staff and NKCES took time out of their day to show the administrative staff appreciation for the dedication and work to moving the region forward. The kindness was greatly appreciated!

NKCES Superintendent Meeting regarding RSP Enrollment, April 23: Executive Director Razor participated in a meeting with superintendent from districts who participate in the Regional School Program to work toward a solution that is fair and balanced in terms of slot purchase from participating districts for this year and future years.

Monthly KDE-Led Education Cooperative Director Meeting, April 26: 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 Superintendents, April 26: NKCES Superintendents and Executive Director Razor joined together to discuss the current impact of legislative decisions and possible next steps for districts.

Special Education Update:

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on Tuesday, April 20th. The NKCES DoSE meeting was held on Friday, April 23rd. Topics of discussion included SB 128 and how it relates to students with disabilities, recent released guidance from KDE titled [Admissions and Release Committee Guide to Free Appropriate Public Education and Compensatory Education](#), and district/state data regarding the sixteen results indicators. In addition, Dr. Merissa Waddey shared information from Julie Weatherly's Legal Update Training. The May DoSE meeting will be held in person at Ralph Rush.

The Northern Kentucky Preschool Coordinators met on Wednesday, April 28th. Anderson County Regional Training Center Preschool Coordinator Alysia Wedding attended and shared preschool updates from KDE. In addition, Alysia shared Anderson County's Professional Learning Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Laura Clarke attended two KY Council for Children with Behavior Disorders planning meetings for the group's Educator Tuesday sessions and to plan an Administrator series focused on supporting district Trauma Informed Plans.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the April State Directors Meeting with OSEEL on April 13th. The IDEA consultants attended their respective monthly state group meetings. Mrs. Becky Nixon leads the state Low Incidence Task Group.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended two Kentucky Council of Administrators of Special Education (KYCASE) Summer Conference Planning Meetings. The conference will be held July 18-20th at Embassy Suites in Lexington. The 18th will be dedicated to the New DoSE's.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Annual Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, April 30th.

Dr. Merissa Waddey serves as Past-President of KYCEC and began collaborating with their conference coordinator Carrie Bearden for the November Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference. She shared a survey with Northern Kentucky DoSEs and behavior task group to gather input on scheduling and topics to solicit.

Dr. Laura Clarke attended the Council for Exceptional Children's Complex and Chronic Conditions division monthly executive board meeting in her role as Advocacy and Professional Development Chair.

Dr. Laura Clarke presented a session for KY SPIN focused on virtual learning tools to support families of children with disabilities on April 29.

Dr. Laura Clarke supported teachers in MSD classrooms in four districts in the month of April. She shared resources and instructional strategies to support communication, behavior supports, and instructional resources to support students with moderate to severe disabilities.

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

Pre-ETS Workshops:

- Magician and self-advocate Cody Clark presented his three-part series on successful "adulthood" to students at Scott and Boone County high schools.
- Steve Tressler presented on KY apprenticeships and alternative post-secondary options for students who learn by doing. Steve presented to students at Boone County High School, Simon Kenton High School, and Regional Schools Program.
- Ted Weise: "Be Part of the Solution: Action, Teamwork, and Attitude", Scott High School. During his live, virtual classroom appearance, Ted led students in hands-on, fun and engaging activities that reinforced content.

Summer Work Based Learning:

Summer Equine Intensive June 1-4. In partnership with Lookout Hills Farm, NKCES will provide a four-day 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:

April Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 163 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of April, serving 1,408 educators.

NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform has proudly served more than 26,193 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 April 16. Joe Berticuci shared information on "[Arts Are Education](#)" campaign. Shellie Baker provided an update on the KY Youth Apprenticeship initiative and the [My CareerE3 platform](#). Ashleigh DuBois and Kristen Haddad provided an [NKISP Update](#). NKCES connected with the Northern Kentucky Chamber and Staples to provide each district with the Essential Workplace Ethics Certificates. The [Summer at a Glance](#) was unveiled with a wealth of upcoming professional learning opportunities.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The Title directors met on April 16 to work collaboratively and support each other as districts maneuver through the implementation of the Title programing.

DAC Consortium: NKCES hosted DAC Consortium on April 20. These meetings are the epitome of regional collaboration.

NKASL Award: The 2021 NKASL Award of Merit was presented to Diane Hatfield and the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Education Services on April 21.

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](#).

April Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): Our PLNs in March included: 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:

Steve Tressler presented virtually to our high school students about transitions; thank you Linda Lane!

RSP, with Lorie Duffy from TLC in Covington, hosted the final virtual Regional Alternative Program (RAP) meeting for this school year on April 14th. Kiley Whitaker from KDE presented on dual credit opportunities in alternative settings.

RSP's testing window begins May 11th. Our current testing schedule for in-person testing will be held May 11th - 13th, with make-ups and virtual testing after those dates.

We are working on a small ceremony for our Seniors and we plan to do in-class distribution of other end-of-year awards.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, are completing ACCESS testing in the EL Program districts and are providing services to students. The ACCESS testing window is from March 1 through May 7. They co-hosted the fourth 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.

They will begin gathering input from teachers for students PSPs for the 2021-22 school year and will conduct a yearly program review with the districts.

NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

Twelve schools from eight districts have applied to participate in the **2021-22 Program: Integrating the Arts with Social Studies**. Those schools are *Grandview Elementary* (Bellevue), *Boone County High School*, *Ockerman Elementary*, *RA Jones Middle School* (Boone), *Dayton High School*, *Lincoln Elementary* (Dayton), *Arnett Elementary*, *Lindeman Elementary* (Erlanger), *Newport Intermediate* (Newport), *Southern Elementary* (Pendleton), *Southgate School* (Southgate), and *Williamstown Elementary* (Williamstown).

The Steering Committee met on April 2. Mr. Joe Bertucci is collaborating with the committee and community arts partners to plan the 2021 summer workshop. In addition to social studies, next year's program will address social emotional learning through the arts. Information can be found [here](#).

Mr. Bertucci is collaborating with Tiffany Gruen from Miles Elementary (Erlanger), Alissa Paasch from The Carnegie, and other partners to develop model units integrating the arts with social studies and SEL.

Grant Consortium Update:

District Grant Reports: Lisa Hans asked if anyone knew anything about awards from the Horizon Fund 410 grant; later research showed that these funds had been awarded to a community organization. The group discussed the level of interest in Horizon Funds for schools. Stacie Strotman noted she had applied for Community Impact COVID Relief funds from Horizon and the Horizon Fund had collected somewhere around \$2 million in these COVID Relief funds.

Grants in Progress

RC Durr Technology for Rural Districts: Vicki worked with a teacher from Pendleton County on this proposal submitted April 30.

GEER II for FRYSC: KDE is giving 150 \$100,000 grants to FRYSCs. Vicki is meeting individually with districts or schools about their proposals and creating templates for each of the priority areas: Early Childhood Education; Mental Health; and Childcare. She will send templates out next week centered on each priority. Let her know if your FRC or YSC wants to meet or needs other support. Due June 1.

NSF: Racial Equity in STEM Education: Vicki is meeting with Laura Clarke and Merissa Waddey from the co-op, and Dusty Columbia Embry from Wright State University, to determine potential paths to a research application focused on racial equity in STEM for students with disabilities.

In implementation

Innovative Approaches to Literacy: These two grants (Erlanger-Elsmere and Bellevue) are planning to complete by September 30. Currently various districts are providing support that include books to students, classroom libraries, Clever Touch screens, and access to digital books in virtual libraries in connection with public libraries.

Professional Development for Arts Educators/NKIAE: Joe Bertucci announced that this year's focus has been social studies and that, at the request of several districts, it now can be opened up to Social Emotional Learning teams as well! [CLICK](#) here for information about which schools are eligible (list is at the end of the document) and about benefits and commitment. Contact Joe at joe.bertucci@nkces.org with questions. Very short turnaround; Joe needs to know about your SEL teams by May 7!

Project Prevent is picking up steam in Erlanger-Elsmere and Covington. This violence prevention grant is a good example of how this and related topics can support needed activities. Stacie described how the grant is supporting SEL at expanded summer programming in Covington and Erlanger-Elsmere.

Strategic Prevention Framework: Ashleigh DuBois provided an update about activities of NKISP. Here's some information about training opportunities upcoming:

1. Catch My Breath:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehvls9x98df27c4&llr=jhpqh5dab>

2. Instructional Assistants:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehtmw76v63900c39&llr=jhpqh5dab>

3. Virtual Summit open to all school and community members: July 27, 2021, 8:30 am – 3 pm with keynote speaker and four breakout session opportunities.

Positive Action: This \$750,000 grant was finally cleared of all 45 conditions by Washington! We are clear to start working on it, and the position of Project Coordinator has been posted. Vicki will contact the participating districts (Bracken County and Southgate, all grades; Ludlow grades 4-8; Erlanger-Elsmere, Bartlett and Lloyd all grades; Dayton grades 2, 4, and 6) to discuss next steps.

21st CCLC: Stacie Strotman announced that Covington has been awarded a third grant for next year. She also mentioned that Tom Haggard of Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance (KYOSA) is circulating a letter asking districts to advocate for use of some ESSER funds to support continuation grants that scored in the funding range.

Reports

All reports have been submitted timely and those that could have been approved by now have been.

Pending

KDE Comprehensive Literacy: Lisa said she had heard this will be announced in the Fall.

Assistance for Arts Education: We expect this announcement September 30.

McKinney Vento Homeless Education: Coordinators in Covington, Newport, and Dayton resubmitted their proposals.

Full Service Community Schools: This funding was withdrawn by the US Department of Education. They plan to open it up next year.

Business

GC infrastructure review: The group discussed membership options for the future.

GCF schedule: Vicki departed on Greater Cincinnati Foundation's changing priorities.

Meetings for next year: The group discussed next year's meeting options.

NEXT MEETING: June 1, 2020, 8:30 a.m.