

NKCES Report – May 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



KASS Conference , May 2-4: Executive Director Razor attended the annual conference with many other Northern Kentucky educational leaders. This conference offers superintendents and other school leaders opportunities for professional development, networking, fellowship, and career growth.

NKCES Finance/Facilities Meeting, May 6: Each month Executive Director Razor and Ms. Angie Perkins meet to plan for future expenses and prioritize any facility needs.

Confucius Institute Conversation, May 6: Executive Director Razor participated in a virtual conversation with Huajing X Maske and Dr. Mike Stacy to learn more about this program which teaches english speaking students Chinese. The conversation was informative and productive.

Telling Our Story Kentucky Data Review, May 7: Executive Director Razor participated in a virtual meeting with Brad Clark to review the social media data collected during the online campaign. The participation across the state was incredible! He shared that the participation rate was above industry standards. The data is a testament to the positive impact public education in Kentucky has had on so many current and past students.

CRSSA Interviews, May 10: Executive Director Razor, Ms. Melody Stacy and an interview committee made up of a few leaders from the region met at NKCES to interview strong candidates for the CRRSA Coordinator position. Each candidate brought incredible talent and experience to the table. In the end the interview committee determined, Ms. Jessica Pass would lead the CRRSA team. We are excited to have Ms. Pass join the NKCES team effective July 1, 2021!

CLAG, May 11: 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.

Superintendent Lunch with Commissioner Glass, May 11: Executive Director Razor joined many Northern Kentucky superintendents at LAUNCH in Fort Thomas, Ky. for lunch to learn more about the state's priorities as we navigate the new bills that passed during the legislative session.

KY Superintendent Webcast, May 11: 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.

KSBA Conference, May 13-16: Executive Director Razor attended this conference and also presented the "TELLING OUR STORY" campaign with Exec. Director David Young and Dr. Smith. The session was well received by the audience.

Meeting with Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky CEO, Rick Wurth, May 21: Executive Director Razor and Principal Turner met with Executive Director Rick Wurth to discuss a potential partnership.

Monthly KDE-Led Education Cooperative Director Meeting, May 24: 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.

ARP Brainstorming Session, May 24: Executive Director Razor participated in a brainstorming session with the state cooperative directors to discuss other grant opportunities.

Positive Action Interviews, May 24: Executive Director Razor, Superintendent Brewer and Vicki Dansberry interviewed the top three candidates for the Positive Action grant position. This person will lead the work for the five districts involved: Bracken, Dayton, Ludlow, Erlanger and Southgate. The focus of this grant is SEL. Also important to note is that we have worked for the past five years to secure a relationship with Research Triangle Institute and they are a partner in this grant work. A partnership with RTI has the potential to open the doors to other research opportunities for the region.

Commissioner Call/Coop Directors, May 24: Executive Director Razor participated in a call with all coop directors and state representatives. The commissioner shared goals and updates with directors. A highlight of the meeting was new diversity modules that will be developed and shared throughout the state through a train the trainer process.

Special Education Update:

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on Friday, May 21st. The NKCES DoSE meeting was held in-person at Ralph Rush on Friday, May 28th. Topics of discussion included Indicator 8 [Parent Survey](#), Alternate Assessment Desk Audits, KDE End of Year Trainings, Child Count Updates, etc. In addition, we celebrated the Directors of Special Ed in “surviving” a very challenging year.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the May State Directors Meeting on May 11th. The IDEA consultants attended their respective monthly state group meetings. Mrs. Becky Nixon leads the state Low Incidence Task Group.

Mrs. Becky Nixon and Dr. Laura Clarke met with several districts to provide support for record reviews and district work on alternate assessment planning. Mrs. Nixon, Dr. Clarke, and Dr. Merissa Waddey completed record reviews and shared findings with directors to support district compliance work.

Mrs. Becky Nixon and Ms. Amelia Brown met with Dr. John O’Connor to discuss bringing some of his latest research to the NKCES area. His new book will be released this month. Stay tuned....

Mrs. Becky Nixon met with the KYCASE Executive Board. They are in the midst of planning the New DoSE Institute on July 18th and DoSE Summer Conference on July 19-20th. These events will be held in person at Embassy Suites in Lexington.

Dr. Merissa Waddey participated in two conference planning sessions with the KYCEC Conference Coordinator and conference partners to continue planning the November KY Exceptional Children's Conference. It will be held at the Galt House in Louisville from November 21-23, 2021. Dr. Laura Clarke participated in two planning meetings for the KY-CCBD Administrator Virtual Institute, bi-weekly Educator Tuesday sessions, and Summer Virtual Behavior Institute on June 16-18. Dr. Clarke will be one of nine

presenters for the virtual Behavior Institute, sharing the latest recommendations for culturally responsive teaching to decrease disproportionality in special education.

Dr. Merissa Waddey attended a DCDT (Division on Career Development & Transition) Town Hall meeting to discuss strategies for embedding transition services for students with high incidence disabilities into general education classrooms. Dr. Laura Clarke attended KY-CCBD's Virtual Educator Tuesdays with Dr. Ginny Sprang and Dr. Isaiah Pickens to increase our regional capacity to provide trauma informed and trauma sensitive support to staff and students.

Dr. Merissa Waddey attended the KY CCBD Administrator Virtual Institute session on creating district trauma-informed plans to satisfy Senate Bill 8.

Dr. Laura Clarke is collaborating with Dr. Damien Sweeney at the Kentucky Department of Education to develop a module focused on helping School Counselors support students with disabilities.

Dr. Laura Clarke and Dr. Merissa Waddey continued collaborations with NKCES Grant Coordinator Vicki Dansberry and faculty from Wright State University to develop a grant proposal for the National Science Foundation on *Increasing BIPOC students & English learners with disabilities in AP STEM classes*. The initial concept paper has been submitted for feedback. The proposal, if selected, will be due in July.

Dr. Merissa Waddey, Dr. Laura Clarke, Ms. Kimberly Snowball, and Ms. Amelia Brown worked collaboratively to develop an online Instructional Assistants training choice board that will include a wide variety of online (synchronous and asynchronous) and face-to-face trainings this summer. They have partnered with consultants from KSB, KSD, Anderson County RTC, and NKAIE and Strategic Prevention Framework grant coordinators to develop new modules to support the needs of Instructional Assistants across the region.

OVR Update

Pre-ETS Workshops:

- Magician and self-advocate Cody Clark presented his three-part series on successful “adulting” 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:

May Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 127 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of May serving 1418 educators.

NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform has proudly served more than 27676 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 did not meet in May.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The Title directors did not meet in May.

NKCES is honored to offer a variety of professional learning opportunities this summer. All of them can be found in [Summer at a Glance](#). Some of the offerings are highlighted below:

- [TEACCH July 27, 28 & 29 & August 3 & 4](#)
- [Lauren Enders - AAC Bootcamp for Administrators July 13](#)
- [Dr. Maggie McGatha, K-12 Everything You Need for Mathematics Coaching July 15 & July 29](#)

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](#).

May Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): Our PLNs in May included: Transition, NKAGE and Media Specialists. PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

RSP completed state testing (began May 11th).

RSP's last day of school for students was 5/28/21, and we held a small Senior Ceremony for the graduates. In place of a traditional field day, a staff vs. students kickball game was held.

We are working with Lorie Duffy from TLC in Covington to create the schedule for next year's Regional Alternative Program Meetings. We are also in discussion with NKU about how next year's partnership may look.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, conducted a program review with the Title III Coordinators in the EL Program's districts and continued to provide student services. The EL Consultants also co-hosted the fifth and final meeting of the book study with Dr. Merissa Waddey based on the book *How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms*. They gathered input from teachers for the students' PSPs for the 2021-22 school year. ACCESS scores will be available on July 14th. PSPs will be developed in August.

NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

Twelve teams from eleven schools in eight districts have committed to participating in the **2021-22 Program: Integrating the Arts with Social Studies / Social Emotional Learning**. Those schools are *Grandview Elementary* (Bellevue), *Boone County High School*, *Ockerman Elementary* (Boone), *Bracken County Middle School* (Bracken), *Holmes Middle School* (Covington), *Dayton High School*, *Lincoln*

Elementary (Dayton), Arnett Elementary, Lindeman Elementary (Erlanger), Southern Elementary (Pendleton), and Williamstown Elementary (Williamstown).

The Steering Committee met on May 7. Tiffany Gruen from Miles Elementary and Naomi Colliver from Arnett Elementary have joined the steering committee to lead professional learning in Social Studies and Social Emotional Learning, respectively. Mr. Joe Bertucci is collaborating with the committee as well as community and national arts partners to plan the 2021-22 program.

Mr. Bertucci and Dr. Merissa Waddey are partnering to offer a second round of the Arts & Accessibility workshops developed through a contract with the Kennedy Center's VSA Program. The workshops offer up to 5 hours of professional learning for arts, general, and special educators.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grants in Progress

GEER II for FRYSC: Vicki Dansberry reported that she is working with six districts, some of which have more than one proposal submitted for this grant. She also is aware that at least three more districts are applying for one or more FRYSCs.

NSF: Racial Equity in STEM Education Drs. Laura Clarke and Merissa Waddey from NKCES and Dr. Dusty Columbia Embury from Wright State University are working on a potential proposal for this research grant to increase participation in and completion of Dual Credit and Advance Placement for BIPOC and EL students with disabilities. They submitted a one-page concept paper and hope to apply for the July 13 deadline or the next deadline in October. More information as it develops. If you have, or someone from your district has, interest in being part of the planning team, let Vicki know.

In implementation

Innovative Approaches to Literacy: Both grants are working toward completion in September.

Professional Development for Arts Educators: Joe Bertucci is preparing for the July workshop and mentioned there is still room for teams from eligible schools to join for Social Studies or Social Emotional Learning (SEL), or to have SEL providers join the Social Studies team. Joe.bertucci@nkces.org for more info

Project Prevent: Kerry McHugh and her team are integrating project efforts in Erlanger and Covington.

Strategic Prevention Framework: Dr. Kristen Haddad reminded the group of opportunities open to all GC districts (see below). She also noted that she and Ashleigh DuBois will be happy to come to any GC district to provide training on topics of alcohol and vaping prevention. The group discussed the challenges of dealing with increasing vaping issues at schools. Registration for these trainings is available at <https://www.nkces.org>

- CATCH MY BREATH vaping prevention: June 8, training for teachers or other prevention leaders for grades 5-12; individual school or district training available on request. Includes teaching materials. 2 hours, 9 – 12:30. Virtual.
- June 22 Instructional Assistant training session within IA PL day: 9:30 – 11. How to recognize when students are vaping. Virtual.
- July 27, virtual summit, with KY Counselors of the Year. Breakout with case studies. Virtual.
- Credits available

Contact Kristen.haddad@nkces.org or Ashleigh.dubois@nkces.org for more information.

Positive Action: Really good news for this project. We have received final approval from Washington, and we are welcoming Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, former Erlanger Elsmere Superintendent and member of the Grants Consortium, to be the Project Coordinator. Once we have hiring processes in place, she will be in touch with Bracken County, Dayton, Erlanger Elsmere, Ludlow and Southgate schools about next steps!

Pending

KDE Comprehensive Literacy: August or September announcement

Assistance for Arts Education: September 30 announcement likely

McKinney Vento Homeless Education: Not sure when this announcement will come.

Business

Meetings for next year will remain in the same time slot, First Tuesday of each month, 8:30 a.m. Dates are:

July 6; August 3; September 7; October 5; November 2; December 7; January 4; February 1; March 1; April 5 (may be moved later due to Spring Break); May 3; June 7. A July meeting is scheduled for the NKCES PD room.