

NKCES Report – August 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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Executive Director Update:

Grants Consortium Meeting, August 3: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the meeting to stay informed on current work being done by the group for the region, as well as learn about the district's needs and help strategize solutions.

NKCES Finance/Facilities Meeting, August 5: Each month Executive Director Amy Razor and Ms. Angie Perkins meet to plan for future expenses and prioritize any facility needs.

KAEC Virtual Meeting, August 11: Executive Director Amy Razor participated in a virtual meeting to discuss opportunities for future state funding to support districts with closing gaps created by the coronavirus pandemic. The team also had discussions on how to strengthen the relationship with IDEA.

KDE & State Cooperative Executive Director Healthy Schools Virtual Meeting, August 13: Executive Director Amy Razor participated in a virtual meeting to discuss participation in the Healthy Schools program and possible grant-supported initiatives.

Conversation with KDE Office of Special Education & Early Learning, Ms. Greta Hylton and State Cooperative Executive Directors, August 17: Executive Director Amy Razor participated in a meeting with the State Cooperative Executive Directors and Associate Commissioner Greta Hylton where a discussion was held regarding the partnership between the state Special Education Cooperatives and the Regional Cooperatives along with the IDEA budget.

Professional Learning Consortium, August 20: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the PL Consortium meeting led by Chief Academic Officer Melody Stacy. The meeting was full of great energy and dialogue. We look forward to continuing to meet the districts needs as well

Monthly KDE-Led Education Cooperative Director Meeting, June 28: 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. During this call we discussed the state's CRRSA Funding and requested modifications to the monitoring plan. The Diversity Dashboard was also discussed during this time. KDE has requested that cooperatives support this work and assist with the rollout of the program. Executive Director Razor participated in the virtual meeting to learn more about this critically important topic and strategize on how to disseminate the information to districts.

Regional School Program Partnership, August 25: Executive Director Amy Razor, Chief Academic Officer Melody Stacy and RSP Principal Stephanie Turner met with Chief Executive Officer of The Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky, Rick Wurth, to brainstorm potential partnership opportunities to assist students participating in the Phoenix Program with additional therapeutic support.

CDC Healthy Schools Supplemental Planning Meeting, August 30: Chief Academic Officer Melody Stacy attended a virtual meeting with KDE. Planning items discussed included monthly reporting data, budgets, and monthly financial reports along with survey data required for implementation and effectiveness checks.

NKCES Superintendent Virtual Connect Call, August 30: The Superintendents continue to meet virtually on a monthly basis to keep the dialogue going regarding the current impact of COVID 19 on school districts.

IDEA Partnership Meeting, August 31: Executive Director Amy Razor, Chief Academic Officer Melody Stacy, and Special Education Director Becky Nixon participated in a virtual meeting with KDE staff members Ms. Greta Hylton and Mr. Chris Thacker. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify guidelines around IDEA and NKCES financial funding and expenditures.

Regional School Program, August 31: Executive Director Amy Razor, Chief Academic Officer Melody Stacy, and RSP Principal Stephanie Turner met with participating district members (superintendent or designee) in order to discuss the growing needs in the region to provide services for students this school year. Multiple options were discussed, contingent upon allowing additional districts to participate in the program. Representatives from CHNK were also in attendance to present a possible partnership that would add a day treatment program.

Special Education Update:

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on August 23rd. The NKCES DoSE Meeting was held on Friday, August 27th. Topics of discussion included Procedural Safeguards, FERPA, Alternate Assessment, Indicators 9-13, KDE Waiver Process and due dates, district finance audit, ARP Funds, etc.

Mrs. Becky Nixon has worked with the Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) and District DoSE to plan PD opportunities/Record Reviews to satisfy district Corrective Action Plans (CAP).

Mrs. Becky Nixon, Dr. Merissa Waddey, and Dr. Laura Clarke delivered a variety of professional development trainings to satisfy district Corrective Action Plans.

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, Dr. Merissa Waddey, and Mrs. Emily Borchers completed record reviews and shared findings with directors to support district compliance work.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the August State Directors Meeting on August 10th. The IDEA consultants attended their respective monthly state group meetings. Mrs. Becky Nixon leads the state Low Incidence Task Group.

Mrs. Becky Nixon met with the Kentucky Council for Administrators of Special Education (KYCASE) Executive Board to plan administrative strands for Directors of Special Education during the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children (KYCEC) conference in November 21-23 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY.

Mrs. Becky Nixon participated virtually in the State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children on August 19th. This was the first meeting of the year. New officers were selected to guide the work for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Laura Clarke participated in KDE's SPP/APR task group initial meeting to look at goals for 2025.

Mrs. Becky Nixon met with various national speakers to plan PD opportunities for the NKY Region. These trainings will provide rich PD opportunities to a variety of administrators and educators including related service personnel. Dr. Laura Clarke worked with national Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP) speakers to record online modules to support AAC use in the region.

Mrs. Becky Nixon has worked with NKCES Visual Impairment Instructional Assistant, Karen Costello, and District DoSEs to determine the needs for the VI Program for the 2021-2022 school year. Karen has been given her schedule. She has been busy in districts working with students with visual impairments and creating Braille and other materials to support their learning.

Dr. Merissa Waddey participated in the quarterly AWARE/SCT (School Climate Transformation) State Leadership Team meeting on August 3rd, 2021.

Dr. Merissa Waddey and Dr. Laura Clarke continued collaboration with KYCEC's Conference Coordinator to secure sessions and plan for the KY Exceptional Children's Conference to be held in Louisville in November 2021. Dr. Merissa Waddey met with the Membership Manager and Director of Component Services of National CEC on August 19th to plan for the KY Exceptional Children's Conference membership activities and incentives. Dr. Merissa Waddey has been selected to serve as Co-chair of the Local Arrangement Committee for the 2023 CEC Convention to be held in Louisville, Kentucky. She will serve alongside KYCEC's Conference Coordinator Dr. Carrie Bearden to work with CEC staff over the next two years to prepare for the convention.

Dr. Laura Clarke worked with KYCCBD on planning the fall Virtual Administrator Institute focused on supporting district trauma-informed plans and on planning the 2021 KYCCBD Behavior Institute, which will be held June 16-17 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY.

CRRSA Update:

The CRRSA team designed and facilitated multiple trainings in their first month at NKCES. The trainings, which focused on Accelerating Learning and Mental Health, reached over 600 educators in Northern Kentucky.

The team sent a Needs Assessment to the NKCES PL Consortium to establish a plan of support for districts. The team is currently analyzing results and working with Mrs. Stacy to prepare a plan tailored to the needs of each district.

The team has organized the Lt. Governor's Student Roundtables, which will be a virtual activity for students in Northern Kentucky on September 27th from 9-11 AM.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

August Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 163 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during the month of June/July serving 3,182 educators.

NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform has proudly served more than 34,296 educators since the inception of its first online learning Google site (of the total above, during August 2021, there were 4,878 certificates earned.) NKCES online learning options have grown from one site with six trainings that debuted in the spring of 2020 to six sites with 125+ free online trainings as well as a variety of free online trainings and curated resources and supports for educators, parents, caregivers, and substitute teachers.

The online learning platforms available at the start of the 2021-2022 academic year include:

1. Free online PD for certified and classified staff at <https://bit.ly/nkcesonlinetraining>
2. Free teaching and learning resources at the NKCES Remote Learning Teacher site: <https://bit.ly/RemLrnTchrs>
3. Free modules for Substitute Teachers: <http://bit.ly/SubstituteTeachers>
4. Free modules, resources, and recommended supports for parents and caregivers: <https://bit.ly/RemLrnPrnts>
5. Free resources for special education teachers focused on IEP goal support: <https://bit.ly/NKCESIEPSite>
6. Free transition service supports for special education teachers: <http://bit.ly/nkcestransition>

PL Consortium: The 2-22 NKCES PL Consortium kicked off in August with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a summer NKCES update, a CRRSA team presentation, New Teacher Academy and the KYAP. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 21-22 NKCES Title I & Title II meetings kicked off in August with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a summer NKCES update, strategies for GMAP and ESSER plans/audits.

DAC Meeting: The 21-22 NKCES DAC meetings kicked off in August with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a summer NKCES update, Quality Control process, KPREP data release, and annual DAC conference.

NKCES is honored to offer a variety of professional learning opportunities this fall. All of them can be found in [Fall at a Glance](#).

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](#).

Substitute Teacher YouTube Channel: Our collection of videos made just for substitute teachers includes everything from classroom management strategies and the ABCs of supporting students with disabilities,

to what to do with extra time. Check out these great supports for elementary and secondary substitutes. <https://bit.ly/JustForYouSubstituteTeachers>

Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning. Our [21-22 NKCES Regional PLNs and dates can be found here](#).

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

RSP's first day of school for students was August 11th, 2021. It was great to see all of our students back in the building! The first Regional Alternative Program Meeting will be held on October 20th, 2021. RSP is currently fully staffed! We welcomed another teacher and para-educator. Some of our students will begin to experience equine therapy as part of a grant that one of our teachers was awarded. This was delayed a year due to restrictions last year; and we have worked through procedures and adjustments this year.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, have completed the required assessment training and have begun screening new potential English Learners in their districts. Daniele has completed the Title III application in GMAP. Daniele and Heather are meeting with districts' Title III Coordinators to review ACCESS data from last year that was received in July. They are also using input from teachers and parents to finalize students' PSPs.

NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

Mr. Joe Bertucci provided feedback and coaching to the twelve regional teams developing units integrating the arts with social studies and/or social emotional learning. Information about team funds to support arts integration / arts education has been sent to all participating districts.

Mr. Bertucci met with community arts partners, including the Cincinnati Ballet and Kennedy Center teaching artists, to plan professional learning for the 2021-22 school year.

On August 11, Mr. Bertucci led three sessions for arts educators in Boone County School's virtual "Boone Camp."

Mr. Bertucci completed and submitted reports for our work with the Kennedy Center's *Partners In Education* program and our contract with VSA: *The International Organization on Arts and Disability*. To continue and expand this work, he is currently participating in VSA's online course *Universal Design for Learning and the Arts*.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grants Awarded

KDE Comprehensive Literacy: Williamstown and Bellevue received this award! Congratulations!

Grants in Progress

NSF: Racial Equity in STEM Education Dr Laura Clarke and Dr. Merissa Waddey continue to work toward an application for Increasing Racial Equity for BIPOC Students and English Learners with Disabilities in Advanced Credit STEM Courses. A meeting with interested parties is scheduled for September 15.

American Rescue Plan Homeless Program Vicki is working with districts that were invited to apply for additional funding for existing homeless education programs.

STEM Talent Challenge Shellie Baker invited Vicki's support for this opportunity to work with community

organizations to build systems for preparing students for STEM careers.

In implementation

Innovative Approaches to Literacy: These grants are due to expire September 30 so all spending should be complete by then.

Professional Development for Arts Educators: Joe summarized this year's Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE) workshop that took place July 19-22 with great success. He plans to put all project materials on a website that will be available to teachers from any district even after the grant is completed. The grant expires on September 30 but we will be applying for a no-cost extension until June of next year so this year's cohort can complete their work.

Project Prevent: Kerry and Vicki discussed needed changes to the MOU for one partner; Vicki continues to support project progress in this grant for Erlanger and Covington.

Strategic Prevention Framework: The project held its steering committee and Institute meetings; they are looking at ways to support district use of KIP data.

Positive Action: Trainings have been implemented. Materials are in districts for all schools involved. Congratulations to Kathy Burkhardt for accomplishing a lot in a very brief time, and thanks to all districts and school staff for your excellent response! Vicki, Kathy, and the researchers from Research Triangle Institute met to discuss evaluation and instruments for that.

Pending

Assistance for Arts Education: September 30 announcement expected

IMLS American Rescue Plan Library Grant: Boone County applied and got a question from the funder this week. We are hopeful this means good news!

Innovative Approaches to Literacy was submitted on behalf of Dayton, Southgate, and Fleming County Schools. Announcement is expected in early October.