

NKCES Report – September 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.



Executive Director Update:

Virtual Meeting with NKCES Superintendents, September 13: The Governor announced that masking requirements would be a local school decision and no longer mandated by the state. As a result of this change, Executive Director Amy Razor participated in a conversation with regional superintendents to discuss a mask matrix to use as a guideline when making masking decisions in each district.

RSP & Childrens Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK) Virtual Conversation, September 14: Executive Director Amy Razor, Chief Academic Officer Melody Stacy, and RSP Principal Stephanie Turner participated in a conversation with CHNK CEO Rick Wurth and team to further explore potential partnerships to add a layer of support for students participating in the Phoenix Program and in need of therapeutic interventions.

KY Superintendent Webcast, September 14: Executive Director Amy 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 with COVID 19 and the impact on state and local school districts.

NKCES Team Retreat, September 16: NKCES staff stepped away from our normal office hours to come together to learn and synergize at our annual retreat. The content focused on how we can all be leaders in our roles. The time spent together was well received by the team and allowed us all to head back to our roles with a new perspective and a leader mindset.

PBIS Follow Up Call with KDE, September 20: Executive Director Amy Razor joined the other state Cooperative Directors in a virtual meeting to hear about the PBIS program that will be offered through KDE. The ask from KDE is to partner with Education Cooperatives to utilize regional spaces and resources.

KDE Continuous Assessment Summit, September 22-23: Executive Director Amy Razor along with educational leaders across the state attended the Summit to keep informed on up-to-date information to help effectively lead during the 2021-2022 academic year and beyond.

Professional Learning Consortium, September 24: 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 we move forward into the next phase of our work.

BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman Visit, NKY Student Roundtable, September 27: NKCES was proud to host the Lt. Governor Coleman state initiative to gather students' from most NKY districts perspectives and feedback regarding mental health. Lt. Governor Coleman led the introduction of the event before students broke off into subgroups where they were provided a safe space to talk amongst peers regarding the topic.

YSA Expansion Meeting, September 27: Executive Director Razor participated in a call with superintendents Dr. Robb Smith, Dr. Henry Webb and Northern Kentucky University to discuss dual credit opportunities for students in the region. These opportunities will allow students to immediately immerse into their focus areas in the degrees they are pursuing immediately following high school graduation.

NKCES Superintendent Virtual Connect Call, September 27: 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 and other topics that are important to daily operation of districts.

Discussion with PBIS and KDE, September 29: Executive Director Amy Razor attending an additional virtual meeting with KDE to continue the conversation regarding the free PBIS training offering. There will be more to come as the partnership works out the final details.

Special Education Update:

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on September 20th. The NKCES DoSE Meeting was held on Friday, September 24th. Topics of discussion included Emergency / Probationary Certified Special Education Teachers, KDE Updates, Julie Weatherly updates, Teresa Combs training series, etc. In addition, the group began discussions and planning for the Fall IDEA Advisory Board.

Mrs. Becky Nixon has continued to work 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 attended the September State Directors Meeting on September 14th. 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 KDE Preschool Fall Leadership Meeting on September 15th and the Beginning of Year Training with KDE September 21st.

Mrs. Becky Nixon and Dr. Laura Clarke provided several ARC Chair trainings.

NKCES hosted Margo Courter on September 20th, 21st, & 22nd for speech-language pathologists and English Learner providers. She provided a wealth of resources and information around Language Differences versus Language Disorder. Her sessions were recorded to be added to our Professional Learning Online website.

NKCES hosted Augmentative and Assistive Technology and low incidence reading and writing trainings with national speakers Caroline Musselwhite, Sarah Gregory, Katie McKenna, and Sasha Long. These trainings were provided online and are being shared out for three months in an asynchronous format.

NKCES hosted Nate Levenson, author of *Six Shifts to Improve Special Education and Other Interventions*, on September 29th & 30th for special education providers and administrators. His sessions were recorded to be added to our Professional Learning Online website.

NKCES coaches kicked off the 2021-2022 New Teacher Academy on September 27th. We have 36 new teachers registered representing 11 of our NKCES school districts.

Drs. Laura Clarke and Merissa Waddey attended the September KY Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Executive Board meeting on September 25th. Drs. Waddey and Clarke are supporting planning for the KY CEC Conference in November. Dr. Waddey worked with the national Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) organization to provide memberships at 50% of normal cost during the conference. Dr. Clarke is providing two sessions for the New Teacher Institute, and Dr. Clarke, Dr. Waddey, Ms. Amelia Brown, and Mrs. Kimberly Snowball will be providing sessions during the KY CEC Conference in November.

Dr. Clarke participated in KYCCBD planning for the Administrator Institute and summer Behavior Institute.

CRRSA Update:

The CRRSA team partnered with the Lt. Governor's office to hold the Student Mental Health Summit. Twenty-eight students from 10 different districts represented our region in a series of student-led conversations about mental health.

The team established partnerships with five NKCES districts to implement ongoing coaching this year for targeted teams within the districts with the goal of improving student outcomes by empowering educators.

The team is a part of a state-wide task force that will work to design an SEL framework for the state of Kentucky. The team also participated in KDE's train-the-trainer learning model for the state's MTSS work and will be working to implement MTSS in districts across NKY.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

September Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 128 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during the month of June/July serving 810 educators.

NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform has proudly served more than 34,853 educators since the inception of its first online learning Google site (of the total above, during September 2021, there were 5,435 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 21-22 NKCES PL Consortium continued in September with a collaborative meeting. Topics included an August NKCES update, a summary of feedback from PL Consortium members, NKCES CRRSA Update & State Initiatives, Erikson Early Math Collaborative, Parent Camp NKY, a NKCES Board Meeting Update, and the beginning of district share-outs that will kick off in October. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 21-22 NKCES Title I & Title II meetings continued in September with a collaborative meeting. Topics included an August NKCES update, Title I Comparability, Carryover Waivers, CSIP/CDIP goals and data for MTSS structures.

DAC Meeting: The 21-22 NKCES DAC meetings continued in September with a collaborative meeting. Topics included an August NKCES update, KAAC Scott Trimble Assessment Workshop, Quality Control Data Review Follow-up from September 8, Desmos Test Mode, KDE press release resources for KPREP score release.

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:

One of our elementary classrooms has started equine therapy through a grant their teacher received. They have had 2 visits so far, and the experience is wonderful. A second group should be able to attend later this year as well.

An elementary student was beyond excited to assist in welcoming Lt. Governor Coleman to NKCES on 9/27/21.

The first Regional Alternative Program Meeting will be held on October 20th, 2021. This will be held from 3:30-5 pm at Transformational Learning Center (TLC) housed at the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky. Please share with those in your district who would be interested.

RSP has posted the positions that were approved at the last board meeting and we are collecting applicants.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, have met with principals, teachers, and parents to review their students' Program Services Plans and have updated students' records in IC for each district. They are now meeting with students to work on language development. Daniele and Heather have co-hosted two NKY EL PLN meetings with educators throughout the region. They will also be participating in a book study with other PLN members to focus on the text, *The Newcomers: Finding Refuge, Friendship, and Hope in an American Classroom*, by Helen Thorpe.

NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

Mr. Joe Bertucci led follow-up workshops for our NKIAE teams on September 11 and 18, supporting teachers in completing their plans to integrate the arts with social studies and/or social emotional learning. He also observed and provided feedback on arts-integrated lessons at Dayton High School and Southern Elementary School.

Mr. Bertucci led a regional virtual book study of *The Art of Comprehension* connecting art and literacy. Teachers met on September 14, 21, and 28, joined by the author in the first two sessions.

Along with teacher leaders Melissa Marotta (Campbell) and Julie Qualls (Bellevue) and school counselor Naomi Colliver (Erlanger-Elsmere), Mr. Bertucci led the regional Visual and Performing Arts PLN on September 30, with a focus on social emotional learning in the arts.

On September 28, the U.S. Department of Education awarded NKCES more than \$6.97 million dollars over five years to continue and expand the Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education.

Grant Consortium Update:**Grants Awarded**

See above news about the \$6.97 million Arts in Education grant to support our NKIAE for the next five years. This means we can continue to provide excellent support for the arts in our schools in all four art forms with special supports for underserved student populations.

Grants in Progress

NSF: Racial Equity in STEM Education Dr. Laura Clarke, Dr. Merissa Waddey, and Ms. Emily Borchers continue to work toward an application for Increasing Racial Equity for BIPOC Students and English Learners with Disabilities in Advanced Credit STEM Courses. Due October 12.

STEM Talent Challenge The Grants Consortium supported the group exploring this opportunity to work with community organizations to build systems for preparing students for STEM careers.

21st CCLC Vicki Dansberry attended parts of the webinar in support of this grant project and is answering questions and providing support to interested districts. Due November 16.

In implementation

Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL): These grants expired on time with all funds expended by September 30. Congratulations to the teams working on them and to the students who benefitted!

Professional Development for Arts Educators: The no-cost extension was approved until September of next year, which will allow this year's cohort to complete their work.

Project Prevent: Kerry McHugh, Project Coordinator, and Vicki Dansberry discussed needed changes to the MOU for one partner; Vicki continues to support project progress in this grant for Erlanger and Covington as Project Direction Consultant.

Strategic Prevention Framework: We will be hiring to replace Ashleigh DuBois as she has taken the role of NKCES Coordinator of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Kristen Haddad continues to support district use of KIP data and manage program progress.

Positive Action: Curriculums are in place in schools. One district that was to use the curriculum in selected grades has decided to expand to all grades. The project team and the researchers from Research Triangle Institute met to discuss evaluation and instruments for that.

Full Service Community Schools: Chad Molley has invited Vicki Dansberry to serve as Project Director for this grant that was received last year for Erlanger-Elsmere Schools. Amy Razor approved this addition to Vicki's work beginning October 1; the funding for this to the co-op will replace part of the funding we've been getting from the two IAL grants that are ending.