

## NKCES Report – October 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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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

### Executive Director Update:

**Bloomboard Follow Up Meeting, October 4:** Executive Director Amy Razor and CAO Melody Stacy participated in a virtual meeting to discuss further how NKCES can help spread awareness of the business model which offers teachers the opportunity to advance their rank at a reduced cost. As a result of the conversation, Bloomboard representatives, Mr. Carter Myers and past superintendent, Mr. Kelly Middleton presented to the board of directors to introduce the concept.

**Grants Consortium, October 5:** Executive Director Amy Razor attended the monthly meeting to stay informed on the current grant work and offer her support to the group.

**KAEC Annual Retreat, October 6-8:** Executive Director Amy Razor led her 2nd KAEC retreat as President of the group. The retreat was a huge success with 100% attendance from each cooperative. Special guests included Education Commissioner Glass, Dr. Lu Young, as well as representatives from KDE, KASS, KASA and KSBA. The content was engaging and led to rich conversation. This dynamic group of leaders have created so much momentum in being an intricate part of successful partnerships with state leaders and bringing resources to our state that will create incredible synergy in every classroom in our state.

**CLAG, October 12:** Executive Director Amy Razor attended CLAG to stay informed of current events in Campbell County which includes everything from education to real estate to business. Executive Director Amy Razor is appreciative of this group of leaders and the valuable insight.

**RSP & Childrens Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK) Virtual Conversation, October 12:** Executive Director Amy Razor and CAO Melody Stacy participated in a conversation with CHNK CEO Rick Wurth and team to talk through the feedback Executive Director Amy Razor received from superintendents who had expressed interest in such a program, and the financial challenges NKCES could face due to CHNK enrollment requirements.

**KY Superintendent Webcast, October 12:** 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.

**NKYEC Fall Convening, October 19:** Executive Director Amy Razor and CAO Melody Stacy attended the event to support the regional work.

**Arts Grant Meeting, October 21:** Executive Director Amy Razor, CAO Melody Stacy, Business Manager Angie Young and Arts Integration Joe Bertucci met to discuss the details of the new Arts Integration Grant that will have an incredible impact on the NKCES member districts. Mr. Bertucci is eager to get started in putting the 6.87 million into classrooms in our region!

**CEO Rick Wurth, CHNK, October 21:** Executive Director Amy Razor followed up with Mr. Rick Wurth regarding the CHNK program which would partner with the Regional School Program to add a day treatment program. Based on feedback and financial constraints, deployment of this program at this time would not warrant successful outcomes.

**Positive Action Grant Meeting, October 21:** Executive Director Amy Razor and CAO Melody Stacy met with Dr. Kathy Burkhardt to discuss her successes in leading the work for the districts.

**KDE Monthly Cooperative Director Meeting, October 25:** Executive Director Amy Razor and CAO Melody Stacy, along with 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.

**NCERT, October 27-30:** Executive Director Amy Razor attended the Fall Conference in San Diego California. The conference is always a highlight and brings new energy and knowledge back to NKCES to explore.

### **Special Education Update:**

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on October 15th. The NKCES DoSE Meeting was held on Friday, October 22nd. Topics of discussion included KDE Updates, OSEP Monitoring, 2020-2021 Monitoring Trends, etc. Patty Whitney with Kentucky Academic & Behavioral Response to Intervention (KYABRI) attended the meeting to provide updates and offer support/assistance to NKY districts.

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). Dr. Laura Clarke served on the KDE SPP/APR Planning Committee to work on indicators up to 2025.

Mrs. Becky Nixon, Dr. Merissa Waddey, Dr. Laura Clarke and Mrs. Emily Borchers continue to provide a variety of professional development trainings and conduct record reviews to satisfy district Corrective Action Plans.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the October State Directors Meeting on October 19th. The IDEA consultants attended their respective monthly state group meetings. Mrs. Becky Nixon leads the state Low Incidence Task Group. This Low Incidence Task Group had a rich discussion on how to support districts given the current sub situation. As a result, the group developed a monthly newsletter that is embedded with strategies, resources, etc. This newsletter will be sent to districts throughout Kentucky and housed on their state Alternate Assessment website.

Mrs. Becky Nixon met with the Preschool Coordinators on October 27th to discuss various topics surrounding early childhood. In addition, she attended the Community Early Childhood Council Meeting on October 27th.

Dr. Merissa Waddey completed her Director of Special Education certification and added this area to her KY licensure. We are very proud of her for this accomplishment.

Dr. Merissa Waddey's session *Fostering Parent Partnerships: Trauma-Informed Practices to Increase Family Engagement* was selected for presentation at the CEC Convention in Orlando, Florida in January 2022.

Dr. Merissa Waddey collaborated with Ms. Sarah Kaiser of the Kentucky Autism Training Center to develop and launch the online module *School Resource Officers and Students with Disabilities*.

Dr. Merissa Waddey met with Louisville Tourism on October 12, 2021 with Ms. Carrie Bearden, KYCEC Conference Coordinator, to begin promoting the CEC Convention coming to Louisville in 2023.

Dr. Laura Clarke met with the KY CCBD executive board to continue planning for 2021 KY CCBD Behavior Institute on June 16-17 in Louisville, KY. Dr. Clarke met with the Council for Exceptional Children's Complex and Chronic Conditions division to plan sessions for the CEC Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Laura Clarke met with Ms. Carrie Beardon to plan the 2021 Yes I Can Awards for the Kentucky Conference for Exceptional Children. Dr. Clarke is presenting three sessions at the conference along with Dr. Merissa Waddey and Ms. Amelia Brown.

Dr. Merissa Waddey & Dr. Laura Clarke presented *Supporting Executive Functioning & Behavior Challenges: Using a Trauma-Informed Lens* on October 19 as part of KYCCBD's Administrator Virtual Institute.

Dr. Laura Clarke & Dr. Merissa Waddey continued new special education teacher support through the New Teacher Academy and Teacher Toolbox series.

Dr. Laura Clarke, Dr. Merissa Waddey, Mrs. Barbara Wietlisbach, and Mrs. Emily Borchers provided technical assistance to several teachers and schools through behavior observations, coaching, and behavior support.

Mrs. Kim Snowball and Mrs. Emily Borchers are providing technical assistance to a high school Emergency Certified Teacher in the area of progress monitoring of math IEP goals.

### **CRRSA Update:**

The CRRSA team partnered with eleven districts this month to plan, develop and implement professional learning or engage in coaching opportunities.

The team also participated in KDE's train-the-trainer learning models for standards implementation in Social Studies, Reading and Writing, Math and Science. The team is now able to provide KDE-supported trainings to the region on the standards.

The team has also worked with the other CRRSA teams to begin collaborating on supports that will help the state accelerate learning and meet the social and emotional needs of our students. The CRRSA team is planning an NKY Student Mental Health Roundtable to be held in November.

**Professional Learning (PL) Update:**

**September Professional Learning:** NKCES supported a total of 164 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during the month of October serving 835 educators.

**NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform** has proudly served more than 35,103 educators since the inception of its first online learning Google site (of the total above, during September 2021, there were 5,679 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 support 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 October with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a September NKCES update, NKCES CRRSA Update & State Initiatives, new #ConnectGrowServe Twitter chat, KDE Healthy Schools resources, NKCES Sparks of Synergy, and the first district share-out with Bellevue highlighting their Birth-Age 5 work. 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 October with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a September NKCES update, new #ConnectGrowServe Twitter chat, and an open discussion time.

**DAC Meeting:** The 21-22 NKCES DAC meetings continued in October with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a September NKCES update, new #ConnectGrowServe Twitter chat, KAAC Scott Trimble Assessment Workshop, Kentucky Summative Assessments, common assessment systems, and the OECD test.

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

Wadley 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:**

Our second round/classroom of students began equine therapy at the end of October. After this session, we will pause until the spring.

The first Regional Alternative Program Meeting was held on October 20th at TLC in Covington. Our next meeting will be in December.

NKU will be putting on a fall festival for RSP students in early November.

RSP is working with Hickory Grove for our annual Thanksgiving meals for our families.

RSP is working with Mix94.9 again this year for our Pack The Pantry event to help with our holiday food baskets. This kickoff will be in early November.

**English Learners (EL) Program Update:**

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, are working with EL students in the EL Program districts and are enrolling and assessing English Learners who have recently arrived in the United States. They are also making preparations for the ACCESS testing which is scheduled to take place in January and February. The next EL PLN meeting will be held on November 12th.

**NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):**

On October 2nd, teachers attended a private walking tour of ArtWorks murals in Over-the-Rhine: a professional learning experience exploring the relationship between art and community.

Mr. Joe Bertucci met with project evaluator Dr. Joan Ferrante to prepare the annual report to the U.S. Department of Education for our PDAE Grant. Mr. Bertucci also participated in a focus group preparing the annual conference sponsored by the Department's Arts in Education program.

Mr. Bertucci observed and provided feedback on arts-integrated lessons at Holmes Middle School, Grandview Elementary, Williamstown Elementary, and Bracken County Middle School. Mr. Bertucci updated current arts integration teams with this [fall newsletter](#).

On October 25th, Mr. Bertucci met with the federal program officer for our new Assistance for Arts Education grant. A steering committee meeting is scheduled for early November.

**Grant Consortium Update:**

Communication has gone out to the existing Grants Consortium members as well as new members regarding district contact information and the meeting on Nov. 16th. We are excited to bring together the entire region and begin amplifying this important work.

**Grants in Progress**

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

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: Dr. Kathy Burkhardt is answering questions and providing support to interested districts. Due November 16th.

### **In implementation**

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: Ms. Vicki Dansberry will continue to support project progress in this grant for Erlanger and Covington as Project Direction Consultant.

Strategic Prevention Framework: We are currently receiving applications for the vacancy of Coordinator for this program. Dr. 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: Ms. Vicki Dansberry will serve as Project Director for this grant.