

## NKCES Report – November / December 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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CONNECT  
GROW  
SERVE

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:

**KDE Summit, November 1-2:** Executive Director Amy Razor along with educational leaders across the state attended the KDE Summit to keep informed on up-to-date information to help effectively lead during the 2021-2022 academic year and beyond.

**NKCES Leadership Synergy Meeting, November 15:** Executive Director Amy Razor began holding standing monthly meetings with leaders to meet together to allow for open dialogue, create synergy and create awareness of current projects and work across the organization.

**Grants Consortium Meeting, November 15:** Executive Director Amy Razor led the meeting to share the board's desire to add all districts to the consortium to create more synergy amongst the region. This news was well received and the group is excited to welcome new districts to the table.

**PL Consortium Meeting, November 15:** Executive Director Amy Razor attended the meeting which was 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 continue to bring new innovative ideas and support to our region.

**KDE Monthly Education Cooperative Director Meeting, November 22:** Executive Director Amy Razor, along with other KDE Leaders and Education Cooperative Directors participated in the monthly virtual meeting to report to the collective group the growth and success of each CRRSA Team. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the data and feedback the NKCES CRRSA team has received from the impact they have made in our region. It was also helpful to hear from other cooperatives and the different approaches they are taking to reach districts.

**AESA National Conference, November 30 - December 3:** Executive Director Amy Razor and members from the NKCES Executive Board traveled to Austin, Texas to participate in the AESA conference. Mrs. Razor and the superintendents participated in numerous sessions and heard from several amazing speakers. One of which, Mr. Hassan Davis, is from Kentucky and connected with the team! We are hoping to have him present at a future event hosted by NKCES.

**KASS State Conference, December 5-7:** Executive Director Amy Razor, along with educational leaders from across the state met in Louisville KY to take part in the conference centered around the theme of Courageous Leadership for Public Education: Our Children are Counting on Us. The sessions focused on enhancing skills and knowledge for leading more personalized, deep learning for students,

and ensuring equity for all and influencing education policy through strong advocacy.

**Bloomboard Virtual Meeting, December 8:** Executive Director Amy Razor participated in a virtual meeting with Bloomboard President, Mr. Jason Lange to discuss future partnerships and potential models with KEDC.

**Telephone Conference with Leisa Mulcahy, December 9:** Ms. Mulcahy requested a meeting with Executive Director Amy Razor to learn more about Kentucky Youth Apprenticeship Program and receive an update of the most recent work being done within the program. Ms. Razor shared all of the ways in which Ms. Shellie Baker shares this data to allow the community to stay informed.

**Regional School Program Holiday Shop, December 10:** Each year the NKCES Staff prepare a Holiday Shop for the students of RSP to shop for their caregivers. The event is such a heartwarming experience. The students are excited and very thoughtful in their gift selections for those who care for them. The students also enjoyed holiday music and refreshments once their shopping was complete.

**Supporting Western Kentucky Tornado Victims, December 13:** Executive Director Amy Razor set up a virtual meeting to allow space for all of the NKCES superintendents to come together to develop a plan to support colleagues and students impacted by the tornados that ripped through their community. The superintendents were able to leverage each of their communities to contribute to fulling 6 semi tractor trailer trucks of supplies, as well as monetary donations to use toward more specific needs in the future.

**NKCES Leadership Synergy Meeting, December 13:** Executive Director Razor meets with department leaders to devise a plan to further support folks in Western Kentucky. NKCES became a hub for donation drop office as well as offered support for graphic creation using social media to spread awareness of the victim's immediate needs.

**KY Superintendent Webcast, December 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 current topics. The group largely discussed the devastation caused by tornados in Western Kentucky and ways in which the state could rally around those impacted.

**NKCES Superintendent Meeting with Commissioner Glass, December 15:** Commissioner Glass traveled to NKCES to meet with NKCES Superintendents on a number of topics. The conversations were informative and productive and we are grateful the Commissioner took time to address the questions and concerns.

**NKCES Holiday Celebration, December 16:** NKCES staff joined together at Headquarters Event Space to pause and reflect on the successful 2021 year, and look forward to the opportunity that a new year brings.

**Apptegy Telephone Conference, December 20:** Executive Director Amy Razor connected with Apptegy at the AESA Conference in November and was interested in learning more about the service. Ms. Razor met with Mr. David Rutledge for an overview and plan to revisit the product in January.

**Western Kentucky Relief, Meeting with Judge Executive Steve Pendry, December 22:** Judge Executive Steve Pendry is holding regular meetings with leaders in the Northern Kentucky area to streamline

support for Western Kentucky. Judge Pendry has requested Ms. Razor attend these meetings as lead for the school community.

### **Special Education Update:**

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on November 5 & December 6. The NKCES DoSE Meeting was held on November 19 & December 10. Topics of discussion included KDE Updates, 2022 New Process for LEA Determinations, December 1 Child Count, Special Ed Connection, etc.

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, 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 November 9 & December 14 State Directors Meeting. 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 CASE Executive Board Meeting and Conference which was held November 10-13 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Topics of discussion included Government and Organizational Supports, IDEA Reauthorization, Legislative Input, Research Updates, High Leverage Practices, Legal Updates, etc.

Mrs. Becky Nixon presented at the State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) on November 23rd. She gave an update on the work of the Special Education Cooperatives.

Mrs. Becky Nixon along with the IDEA Consultants has released the 2022 Winter-at-a-Glance Professional Learning Opportunities. A variety of Professional learning opportunities such as ARC Chair training, Explicit Instruction, Indicator 13, IEP Development and Progress Monitoring, Alternatives to Exclusionary Discipline - Series for Administrators, etc. are planned beginning in January and going through May. We are also pleased to bring in several national presenters such as Caroline Musselwhite, Sasha Long, Katie McKenna, Margo Courter, etc.

The IDEA Consultants attended Jim Knight Coaching on December 6 & 7. This in-person training equipped the consultants in Growth Leadership skills, instructional coaching, and dialogic coaching.

The IDEA Consultants, along with Mrs. Becky Nixon, attended the KY Exceptional Children's Conference in Louisville November 21st-23rd. Dr. Merissa Waddey co-led a session with EL Consultant Daniele Novak on the intersection of language differences and disability. Dr. Merissa Waddey & Dr. Laura Clarke, along with Misti Carr (RSP) and Jenny Miller-Horn (Fort Thomas Independent Schools), co-led a 3-hour Make & Take session for Behavior Supports. Dr. Clarke and Ms. Amelia Brown led a session on Kentucky Alternate Assessment Literacy Targets: Lesson Planning. Dr. Laura Clarke coordinated the Yes I Can! Awards for the conference, and Governor Andy Beshear presented the awards for all of the student Yes I Can (YIC) winners. He also shared a message thanking teachers for their service in the key note session of the conference.

Dr. Merissa Waddey serves as President of KY Pioneers, a division of KYCEC, and led their Annual Membership Meeting on November 22nd at the Exceptional Children's Conference in Louisville.

Dr. Laura Clarke & Dr. Merissa Waddey participated in the KYCEC Executive Board meeting on November 23rd in Louisville.

Dr. Laura Clarke participated in a Council for Exceptional Children - Complex and Chronic Conditions division board meeting on November 3 and December 8.

Dr. Laura Clarke presented a session on Supporting Twice Exceptional Learners for the American Middle Level Educators Conference on November 5.

Dr. Laura Clarke and Dr. Merissa Waddey are providing ongoing support to the Regional Schools Program with coaching, observations, adapted materials, and visual behavior supports.

### **CRRSA Update:**

The CRRSA team partnered with 15 districts to plan, develop and implement professional learning or engage in coaching opportunities including hosting the region's students at the NKY Student Mental Health Roundtables. We touched 75% of the region through leading 15 coaching projects and nine large group professional learning opportunities.

The team participated in KDE's train-the-trainer learning model for Curriculum Development and High Quality Instructional Resources.

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.

### **Professional Learning (PL) Update:**

**November/December Professional Learning:** NKCES supported a total of 236 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during the months of November/December serving 2726 educators.

**NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform** has proudly served more than 35,103 educators since the inception of its first online learning Google site. 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/NKCESParent>

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 November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a October & November NKCES update, NKCES CRRSA Update & State Initiatives, #YOUtotheUS Twitter chat, [NKCES Principal Institute](#) & [Aspiring Leaders Institute](#), [BloomBoard](#), [Family Engagement Resources](#), and the second district share-out with Erlanger-Elsmere highlighting their Birth-Age 5 and Cognitive Coaching 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 November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included an October & November NKCES update, Title II & [Title I November and December at a Glance](#), Discussion of Declaration of Participation Spring 2022, and an open discussion time.

**DAC Meeting:** The 21-22 NKCES DAC meetings continued in October with a collaborative meeting. Topics included an October & November NKCES update, KAAC Scott Trimble Assessment Workshop - Sharing & Feedback, November DAC Monthly Webcast Topics - Discussion & Support (Assessment, Accountability and Reporting Resources, Alternate Assessment Reminders, Administration Code/Inclusion of Special Populations Training Materials, End-of-Course Updates, ACT Trainings Reminders), and an open discussion time.

NKCES is honored to offer a variety of professional learning opportunities this winter. All of them can be found at [NKCES Winter-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:**

Due to the resignations that occurred, RSP had additional open positions. We were able to hire a teacher for the elementary classroom, who will begin on January 10th; and we are still working on our other open positions. (MSD teacher, and paraeducator openings) The month of December we had 3 NKU students who subbed in the building to assist where needed, and they intend to continue this semester, as their course schedule allows. This has grown our partnership with NKU even more, and we are very grateful for this during this time of great need.

The next Regional Alternative Program Meeting will be held on April 20th, in person, hosted by Rise Academy in Boone County.

RSP thanks many community partners through the holiday season:

\*Hickory Grove for the 40+ meals provided for Thanksgiving for our families.

\*Mix94.9 for their annual Pack the Pantry event that helps us pack our holiday food baskets for students and families. (RSP staff hand delivered baskets and gifts on December 17th)

\*Darling Ingredients for a monetary donation to assist with food, gifts for students, etc.

\*NKCES for providing and hosting a holiday shop for our students to shop for loved ones and provide gifts to give to others.

During the winter break, RSP had hallway ceilings completed. They really brighten the building.

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

The EL Consultants, Heather Ralphes and Daniele Novak, have been working with EL students in the EL Program districts and are continuing to enroll new EL students. On November 21st, Daniele co-presented with Dr. Merissa Waddey at the Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference on the topic: *Navigating the Intersection of English Learner and Disability*. Heather and Daniele attended the NKY EL PLN on December 10th and provided support and input regarding progress monitoring EL students and resources to use with EL students. They have been working with districts to plan for ACCESS testing which will begin on January 6th.

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

Mr. Joe Bertucci met with the NKIAE Steering Committee to begin planning implementation of the new *Assistance for Arts Education* Grant. Mr. Bertucci also met with project partners The Harris Media Company and The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati.

On December 6 - 8, Mr. Bertucci and members of the NKIAE Steering Committee attended the *Assistance for Arts Education* virtual conference, hosted by the U.S. Department of Education.

NKIAE hosted Dr. Jim Ansaldo of Indiana University's *Camp Yes And* to lead teachers in a November workshop modeling theatrical improvisation as a tool to support academic and social emotional learning.

Mr. Bertucci collaborated with Dr. Laura Clarke to lead November's NKCES Visual & Performing Arts PLN meeting focused on *Culturally Responsive Teaching in the Arts*. Mr. Bertucci also met with Heather Hicks from NKAGE to begin planning January's PLN meeting focused on supporting students identified as *Gifted/Talented in the Arts*.

Mr. Bertucci observed lessons and provided feedback to Arts Integration Teams at Arnett Elementary and Ockerman Elementary.

Mr. Bertucci worked with project evaluator Dr. Joan Ferrante to prepare and submit the annual report for the regional *Professional Development for Arts Educators* Grant to the U.S. Department of Education.

#### **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.