

NKCES Report – June / July 2022

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:

Monthly Finance & Facilities Meeting, June 2: Each month, Executive Director Amy Razor and Ms. Angie Perkins meet to plan for future expenses and prioritize facility needs. This summer, we have many ongoing projects to improve the building, including additional space renovation and the parking lot blacktop project.

NKCES Team Meeting, June 6: Each month, the entire NKCES team gathers to hear from leadership, learn from each other as well as strengthen our knowledge of our mission, vision, and core values. Executive Director Razor led the Ripples of Leadership for the group. We spend a significant amount of time sharing updates from individuals to provide effective communication.

Annual Superintendent Retreat, June 8-10: Executive Director Amy Razor hosted the NKCES Superintendents in Louisville, KY, for three days of learning and building relationships. This time together each year is so important to strengthen the trust and united voice of the board. The theme for the professional learning was “Come Together #brightside.” We focused on leaning into one another’s strengths and remembering to look on the #brightside.

KAEC, Deeper Learning Virtual Meeting, June 13: Executive Director Amy Razor participated in this virtual meeting led by Deeper Learning Statewide Director, Dr. Robb Smith. The time was spent meeting each Cooperative’s DL team, along with Dr. Smith sharing upcoming plans and answering immediate questions.

KY Superintendent Webcast, June 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.

Bloomboard Virtual Meeting, June 15: Executive Director Amy Razor met with Mr. Carter Myers and Mr. Kelly Middleton virtually to hear the most recent update on moving toward a successful deployment so teachers in the Northern Kentucky region could advance their rank certification for a fraction of the cost and time of traditional methods.

Celebration Golf Outing, June 22: Executive Director Amy Razor and the Executive Board hosted the superintendents at Pendleton Hills Country Club and Golf Course for a morning of golf followed by a catered lunch. The highlight of the day was the incredible turnout and the conversation during lunch. We wish all the best to Dr. David Rust and Dr. Robert Stafford on their retirement and Dr. Robb Smith on his new role as Statewide Director of Deeper Learning.

Celebration Lunch for Dr. Laura Clarke and Ms. Linda Lane, June 29: Executive Director Amy Razor joined many NKCES staff to thank Dr. Laura Clarke and Ms. Linda Lane for their contribution to the region and wish them well on their next endeavors.

Monthly Finance & Facilities Meeting, July 7: Each month, Executive Director Amy Razor and Ms. Angie Perkins meet to plan for future expenses and prioritize facility needs. This month there are many projects to review at NKCES to include the parking lot, office renovations, gymnasium updates and many other smaller projects.

Deeper Learning Meeting, July 11-12: Executive Director Amy Razor joined the Cooperatives and their Deeper Learning Teams from across the state to participate in the kick-off led by Statewide Director of Deeper Learning, Dr. Robb Smith. The teams are excited for the vision set forth by Dr. Robb Smith and to begin providing opportunities to students in Kentucky.

AESA Summer Conference, July 19-22: The summer conference provides an opportunity to connect with other cooperative leaders from across the states. The sessions are set up in an interactive format and allow for networking that is extremely beneficial.

KAEC Meetings with KDE July 29: Executive Director and NKCES Leadership participated in the KDE virtual call to share CRRSA data and hear updates for the 2022-23 school year. Topics covered included Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, United to Learn branding and Deeper Learning.

KASA Conference, July 25-29: KASA provides a nice kick-off to the school year with sessions and leadership networking opportunities. This year was no exception and was enhanced by the ability to share the experiences with our leadership team.

New Teacher Support MOU, 29: EPSB is working with KAEC to provide funding for new teacher support. While this is critical work that we do, we currently do not receive any funding to do it. The details are still being worked out but this will provide funding to support current initiatives and to add additional support. Since it is a one year contract, we will use current staff to support the work. If funding allows, we can utilize retired staff or contract trainers for requested professional learning to provide additional support if needed.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

June/July Professional Learning: NKCES supported 230 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during May, serving 3,311 educators.

NKCES Professional Learning Online Platform has proudly served more than 35,809+ educators since the inception of its first online learning Google site.

The online learning platforms available at the start of the 2022-2023 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 Special Education Teaching Tips site: <https://bit.ly/SPEDTeaching>
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: We are excited to kick off our 22-23 NKCES PL Consortium in August. These meetings are set to occur in-person from 10am-12pm on Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28, Nov 18, Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28.

Title I & Title II Meeting: We are excited to kick off our 22-23 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium in August. These meetings are set to occur in person from 8-9:30 am on Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28, Nov 18, Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28.

DAC Meeting: We are excited to kick off our 22-23 NKCES DAC Consortium in August. These meetings are set to occur virtually from 10-11 am on Aug 16, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21, Apr 18.

Principals and Aspiring Leaders Institutes: The 2023 NKCES Principals and Aspiring Leaders Institutes will begin this Fall with a continuation of our work started last year. Participants will take the Working Genius assessment and conduct personal reflection on how this impacts their work and personal lives. A book study, time for feedback on ideas and challenges, as well as requested agenda topics, will be sure to make an energetic and purposeful time together. Registration will roll out in August.

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

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 collaborative environments focused on collective learning. Check out our [22.23 NKCES PLN Dates here](#) (note, these will continue to be finalized and updated.)

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

RSP's first day of school with students is August 11th, 2022. This school year we welcome some additional districts to the program.

Throughout the summer we have been working on building and maintenance items, and many projects to better the building and program.

We are excited to partner with Navigo this coming school year and enhance opportunities for our high school population.

RSP continues to work on filling our remaining open positions.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

Heather Ralphes and Ashley Valerius are excited to kick off the 22-23 school year with the districts participating in our EL Program.

NK Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

On June 14, Mr. Joe Bertucci met with leaders from schools participating in our AIM program to provide resources and training in the Comprehensive Arts Planning process. Committees at each school are completing needs assessments and creating action plans to strengthen arts education.

Mr. Bertucci has been collaborating with Harris Media Company and various guest artists to produce two series of videos: “Arts Express,” supporting elementary theatre and dance instruction, and “Arts In Mind,” supporting middle/high school students interested in pursuing art, dance, music, and theatre. Filming is nearly complete, and final videos are expected in September.

A week of professional learning in arts education and arts integration was held July 25 - 29. More than 60 visual and performing arts teachers attended our workshop on July 25, offering masterclasses in each art form and an introduction to Universal Design for Learning in the Arts. More than 50 teachers attended our workshop on July 26, offering training in arts-based strategies that support instruction in other content areas. Pairs/Teams of teachers from 8 districts attended our Arts Integration Academy, held July 27-29, to create original arts-integrated units.

CRRSA Update:

The CRRSA team worked with 199 educators in June and July to provide professional learning. The team collaborated on four KDE trainings that focused on the Kentucky Academic Standards for Mathematics, Reading & Writing, Social Studies, and Science. The Learning Acceleration Specialists provided educators across the region with a book study on Rebound, while our SEL Specialists provided a book study on Every Student, Every Day. School leaders engaged in MTSS Coaching and virtual MTSS Community of Practice.

The Social Emotional Learning Specialists collaborated with teams across the state to develop guidance on the MTSS tiers of support for Social Emotional Learning, and the Learning Acceleration Specialists are collaborating with other teams to create a training on the learning acceleration process. Both of these supports will be available to the NKY region this fall.

The [teachNKY collaborative website](#) focused on Educator Agency in June and gained 173 new users. July’s topic was Routines and Procedures. The content from each month’s topic is now accessible through a “Search by Topic” option. Next month’s topic will be Learning Acceleration. Please nominate a teacher from your district to be featured [here](#).

Special Education Update:

On June 30th, a Notice of Approval (NOA) was received from The Kentucky Department of Education’s (KDE), Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL), stating that our IDEA Proposal was approved for the 2022-2023 school year. With this NOA, OSEEL has designated all Special Education Cooperatives as now being the Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (SERTAC).

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the Kentucky Council of Administrators for Special Education (KYCASE) Planning Meeting on June 13th and attended the KYCASE Officers Meeting on 28th. The KYCASE Executive Committee completed their planning for the KYCASE New DoSE Institute and the KYCASE Summer Institute which will be held in Lexington, KY on July 17-19th.

Dr. Merissa Waddey participated in the KYCEC Summer Leadership retreat June 10-11th. Dr. Waddey was appointed as Executive Secretary beginning July 1, 2022.

Becky Nixon, Kim Snowball, Misti Carr, Dr. Laura Clarke, and Dr. Merissa Waddey presented at the KYCCBD Behavior Institute in Louisville on June 16-17th.

Dr. Merissa Waddey participated in CEC Leadership Institute and the Special Education Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. July 8th-13th. The Kentucky team met with all of our KY Representatives, as well as representatives of Senator McConnell's office, to advocate for IDEA funding, mental health supports, and solutions for the teacher shortage.

The IDEA consultant team attended the KYCASE Summer Institute in Lexington July 18th-19th. Dr. Laura Clarke and Dr. Merissa Waddey presented on KYCEC's New Teacher Academy.

Dr. Merissa Waddey collaborated with Joe Bertucci to present the Visual and Performing Arts Summer Workshop on July 25th. Dr. Waddey presented on Universal Design for Learning to increase accessibility for all learners.

Mrs. Emily Borchers hosted the Transition Road Trip on July 28th. She and the participants visited local community-based employment programs to gain information about services and programs offered to assist with post-secondary goal development and post-secondary transition for students with disabilities.

The IDEA Team is pleased to welcome Mrs. Amanda Bell to their team. Amanda is our new Special Education Low Incidence Consultant.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grants Awarded

Congratulations to these districts who had KDE grants awarded in June/July:

Greenup County: Project Early Entry (PEEP) grant

Bellevue: Fresh Fruits and Vegetables grant

Beechwood: Calming Spaces grant

Covington: Support Teacher Engagement and Professional Pipeline (STEPP) grant

Grant Opportunities

Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) [Link to FSCS](#) [Link to additional info re: FSCS](#)

Up to \$500,000 a year X 5 years, due September 12. They are giving 40 of them. Must serve two or more schools (unless you only have one school). Requires extensive community partnerships.

A requirement is to expand three existing services and add two new ones from this list:

1. Early Childhood
2. In-school and out-of-school time programs
3. Transitions
4. Family and Community engagement
5. Postsecondary and workforce readiness

6. Community-based support for connectedness and success in postsecondary and workforce
7. Social, health, nutrition, and mental health services and supports
8. Juvenile crime prevention.

Grants Pending

Trauma Informed School Services

NSF Racial Equity for STEM Learning

AESA NSF Racial Equity for STEM Learning

Multi-District Grants in Implementation

- Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP): Abby Beausir, project director, and Christi Jefferts, epidemiologist, have joined the project! Steering Committee meeting August 11, 8:30 a.m.
- Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE): NKIAE has jumped full force into the new Assistance for Arts Educators project while wrapping up the Professional Development for Arts Educators grant that is finishing. See Joe Bertucci’s report above.
- Project Prevent: Kerry McHugh, project coordinator, reported extensive support for Erlanger-Elsmere and Covington schools in collaboration with MTSS, FRYSC, Out of School Time programming (summer camps including partners such as 21st Century programs, Homeless program, Boys and Girls Club), DPPs, Restorative Practices, and Juneteenth celebration. She also met with Full Services Community Schools and other grant-funded projects in Erlanger-Elsmere.
- Positive Action: This project is currently planning trainings for participating schools and providing additional materials as needed.

Grant Tips and News

Scheduling for this year: Meetings will be held on the First Thursday of each month at 10:00 in person at the co-op, with zoom in the room as a backup for those who cannot attend in person. Vicki encouraged everyone to try to be in the room as much as possible since networking and brainstorming go so much better that way.