

NKCES Report – November/December 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.

[BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT](#)

Executive Director Update:

[BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT](#)

KDE PBL Steering Committee, November 1-2: Executive Director Amy Razor was selected to serve on the PBL Steering Committee. Executive Director Amy Razor spent two days at KDE collaborating on setting the vision for PBL. The time at KDE was productive and set the foundation for the future of PBL. We will be sharing upcoming opportunities for our region.

[BOONE COUNTY](#)

[BRACKEN COUNTY](#)

[CAMPBELL COUNTY](#)

[CARROLL COUNTY](#)

Executive Committee Meeting, November 3: Executive Director Amy Razor led the Executive Committee through the board agenda. Mr. George Sparks and Mr. Daniel Damonte of Barnes Dennig joined the virtual meeting to walk the team through another successful year of growth for NKCES. Another very important topic discussed was the NKU Board of Regents. All NKCES member superintendents signed a letter written to NKU in opposition of NKU being considered as an authorizer for a charter school in NKY. This letter will be shared with the Board of Regents at the meeting on November 9th.

[COVINGTON INDEPENDENT](#)

[DAYTON INDEPENDENT](#)

[ERLANGER ELSMERE INDEPENDENT](#)

[FLEMING COUNTY](#)

[FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT](#)

NKCES Team Meeting, November 7th: Executive Director Amy Razor led the monthly team meeting which was filled with learning, surprise and delight! The time spent together building our human capacity is incredible and a highlight each month. We also spent time focusing on Learning Forward Professional Standards for our future work.

[GRANT COUNTY](#)

[GREENUP COUNTY](#)

[KENTON COUNTY](#)

[LUDLOW INDEPENDENT](#)

NKU Board of Regents Meeting, November 9: Following the November NKCES Board of Directors Meeting, the entire board, along with education leaders from around the region, gathered and filled the room to capacity at the NKU Board of Regents meeting. NKCES provided pins for everyone to wear that proudly said, "All kids, support public education." Executive Director Amy Razor and President Misty Middleton spoke on behalf of all NKCES and its strong opposition to NKU considering being named an authorizer to a NKY charter school. During President Middleton's message, all those who support public education stood in solidarity.

[NEWPORT INDEPENDENT](#)

[OWEN COUNTY](#)

[PENDLETON COUNTY](#)

[SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT](#)

[WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT](#)

[WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT](#)

Meeting with Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, November 10: Dr. Kathy Burkhardt requested a meeting with Executive Director Amy Razor, to share current initiatives from the

Positive Action work she is leading and the opportunities being created for students in the region.

EPSB CEO Meeting, November 14: Executive Director Gretchen Wilson and Nancy Hutchinson requested a virtual meeting with Executive Director Amy Razor and EPSB to discuss the requirements for LETRS approval. We are submitting a plan for approval for the December 8th EPSB meeting.

Superintendent Webcast, November 15: Executive Director Amy Razor, along with educational leaders across the state, participated in the monthly webcast delivered by Dr. Glass and his staff.

Virtual meeting with Stanford Kenyon, Bloomboard, November 16: Mr. Stanford Kenyon requested a virtual meeting with Executive Director Amy Razor to discuss the partnership between NKCES and Bloomboard. The meeting was productive and it is clear that NKCES is the trusted partner that makes Bloomboard successful in NKY.

PL Consortium, November 18: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the monthly meeting to hear from regional leaders and learn their needs as they lead districts.

OneNKY Meeting, November 19: Executive Director Amy Razor, Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent Matthew Turner, Dr. Shelli Wilson and Superintendent Jay Brewer attended the OneNKY meeting held at the Metropolitan Club. The NKCES superintendents were given 30 minutes during the meeting to share with the board the successes of public education and reiterate that all kids need public education.

Leadership Meeting, November 28: Each month the leadership team meets as a group to continue our learning through a book study and conversation centered around how we can apply the principles in the Infinite Game to our work at NKCES. We also revisit our RACI chart to keep in alignment with one another.

AESA Winter Conference, November 29-December 2: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the AESA winter conference in Atlanta, GA. The conference provided an opportunity to meet education cooperatives from other states as well as hear from national speakers. Executive Director Amy Razor co-led a breakout session with Dr. Robb Smith on Deeper Learning. The session filled the room with both KY leaders and out of state who left excited to take education to the next level! KAEC also met with the state director for the Minnesota cooperatives. This time was extremely valuable as she shared by-laws and other key documents that provided guidance for their united work. She also shared the strength of their systems and protocols for creating a board. A highlight of the meeting that KAEC will be working toward is the idea of proposing an MOA with the state department to guide future work.

KASS Winter Conference, December 3-6: Executive Director Amy Razor, along with educational leaders from across the state, came together to hear from Greg Coker, Eric Kennedy, and Wayne Young regarding important updates from the Legislative Session in Frankfort. Executive Director Amy Razor gave support to the NKCES Deeper Learning Director, Jessica Pass and Assistant Director Michele Klein as they led a session on Deeper Learning in NKY.

Erlanger Tech Team Planning Meeting, December 7: Superintendent Chad Molley and his tech team facilitated a check in meeting with NKCES leadership to share findings and discuss next steps on how they plan to support us in our current technical needs as well as a plan for the future. We are grateful for all

the Erlanger-Elsmere team has done to support us and get us to a better place so we can better serve our region.

NKCES Leadership Holiday Lunch, December 7: Executive Director Amy Razor and Chief Academic Officer Melody Stacy hosted the NKCES leadership team lunch to show appreciation and gratitude for the incredible work and commitment to our districts. To take time to reflect on the past year and the forward movement was breathtaking. So many wonderful things are happening in NKY to continue to make it the best place to learn!

RSP Holiday Shop, December 8-9: Each year NKCES and RSP Administration come together to create a Holiday Shop which allows RSP students to shop for two important people in their lives. This is one of our favorite events that we look forward to all year long! The joy the students experience as they make their gift selections, pick out beautiful gift wrap while snacking on some holiday inspired treats is something everyone should experience. A special thank you to Board Attorney Jeremy Deters for his generous donation!

Monthly Conference Call with Superintendent Matt Turner, December 8: Superintendent Matt Turner requested a monthly meeting with Executive Director Amy Razor to stay informed of current work at NKCES.

KSBA Conference, December 9: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the KSBA conference to present as KAEC president on the Deeper Learning Initiative.

NKU Board of Regents Meeting, December 13: Executive Director Amy Razor, along with educational leaders from across Northern Kentucky, attended a special meeting where the NKU Board of Regents were to vote on whether or not they would be an authorizer of a Northern Kentucky Charter School; they took no action.

NKCES Superintendent Board Holiday Luncheon, December 13: Executive Director Amy Razor hosted the Superintendent board for a lunch and time for fellowship. Mrs. Razor opened up the meeting with a reflection on the year and how when they link arms and join their united voices incredible things for students can happen. We are grateful for our board and their commitment to education in our region.

NKCES gets DocuSign, December 14: In an effort to make united letters more efficient NKCES has purchased DocuSign. We plan to expand the usage of this application to streamline other areas within the organization.

NKCES Holiday Gathering, December 15: Each year the NKCES team pauses during the holidays to reflect on a year of connecting, growing and serving learning opportunities for our region. Executive Director Amy Razor opened up the gathering with a heartfelt message regarding the importance of connection and the purpose and meaning it gives to our lives.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

November/December Professional Learning: NKCES supported 240 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, SEL, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during September, serving 1774 educators.

PL Consortium: The 22.23 NKCES PL Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a NKCES IDEA Update ([Unified Champion Schools](#), [SDI for Administrators and Teachers](#), [Math SDI Toolkit](#)), a NKCES Learning & Empowerment [Update](#) ([Arts Education Grant & Resources](#), New Teacher Work), a November NKCES update, and a monthly district share-out from Ludlow's Jason Steffen about SB9. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 22.23 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Title I Webinar (Parent Notifications, Monitoring Checklist Revisions - Role of SBDM, District Set Asides, ESEA Conference - Hybrid - Feb 1-4, 2023), Declaration of Participation, and Title I District Consolidated Monitoring Checklist Review & Discussion. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 22.23 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a debrief of [2022 Scott Trimble Workshop](#) - debrief & sharing resources, DAC November Webcast (Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) [Released Items](#), Alternate Kentucky Summative Assessment- Window 1, ACT Spring 2023 Junior Administration Reminders), and TSI - Evidence Based Practices . The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

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](#).

Special Education Update:

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on November 16th and December 8th. The NKCES DoSE Meeting was held on November 18th and December 9th. Topics of discussion included Indicator 8 Parent Survey, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Guidance on Behavior, OSEP Letter to Flanigan, Dear Colleague Letter on IDEA Services in Head Start, etc. We continued the Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) book study with the DoSEs. Representatives from The Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) were present.

Mrs. Becky Nixon led the Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (SERTAC) State Directors Meeting on November 1st and December 13th . OSEEL was present and shared updates and upcoming important dates.

Mrs. Becky Nixon led the NKCES IDEA Fall Advisory Board Meeting on November 3rd. The teachers on the advisory board gave input on the SERTAC North Star Priorities and ways the SERTAC team could better connect, grow and serve their schools/districts.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Board of Directors Meeting and Conference which was held November 8-11th in Salt Lake City, Utah. Topics of discussion included Policy and Legislative, Research Updates, Legal Updates, Professional Development, etc.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the Early Childhood Regional Collaborative (ECRC) Meeting on November 14th. Topics of discussion included kindergarten readiness, prenatal child reach campaign, community-based screening and referral activities and building social emotional wellness activities.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the KYCASE Executive Board Planning Meetings on November 29th and December 19th. The board continues to work on planning for the KYCASE Spring Institute which is March 23, 2023 and KYCASE Summer Conference which is July 17-18, 2023.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the KYCASE Executive Board Meeting that was held during the KY CEC Conference on November 20th. This committee continues to discuss ways to support all DoSEs, especially our new DoSEs.

Mrs. Becky Nixon and Mrs. Amanda Bell, along with the Director of Unified Champion Schools, held a state-wide information session regarding becoming a Unified Champion School on November 30th. Discussion has begun regarding hosting a Student Leadership Summit in the Northern KY area in the spring.

Mrs. Becky Nixon provided training and support to several districts regarding Indicator 11 (Child Find) and Indicator 13 (Secondary Transition).

The SERTAC team continued completing compliance record reviews in several districts. In addition, the SERTAC team continued to provide coaching and support for teachers and administrators across the region.

Mrs. Amanda Bell and Dr. Merissa Wadley continued the partnership with the KY Autism Training Center (KATC) to support two regional training sites.

The IDEA Consultants, along with Mrs. Becky Nixon, attended the 56th Annual KY Exceptional Children's Conference in Louisville November 20th-22nd. Amanda Bell, Kim Snowball, Misti Carr, and Merissa Wadley presented on a variety of topics. Dr. Merissa Wadley provided the opening remarks and introduced Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton at the 56th Annual KY Exceptional Children's Conference in Louisville, KY on Nov. 21st. Dr. Wadley also helped facilitate the New Teacher Academy, which provided KAR-required professional development for emergency/probationary teachers.

Dr. Merissa Wadley was appointed to the Professional Development Committee of CEC's Division of Leaders and Legacy for 2023.

The IDEA consultants attended their respective monthly state group meetings. Mrs. Becky Nixon continues to lead the state Low Incidence Task Group.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

The Learning and Empowerment team worked with more than 480 educators and engaged in work with every NKCES district in the time period of November and December.

Director Jessica Pass and Assistant Director Michelle Klein attended the Learning Forward Conference to increase effectiveness in planning, providing, and evaluating professional learning.

The CRRSA team partnered with 15 districts and served 401 educators in Northern Kentucky. The Learning Acceleration team led professional learning on Math Standards, MTSS, Learning Acceleration, Writing Across the Curriculum, and Differentiation. The Social Emotional Learning team led professional learning on Tier 1 Behavior Strategies, Mental Health Awareness, Behavior Coaching and Trauma Informed Practices.

Learning Acceleration Specialist (LAS) Amelia Powers led a statewide book study for cooperative coaches on The PD Book and participated in the UK Next Gen Leadership cohort. Both teams participated in the monthly statewide CRRSA meetings and continued work on an SEL Implementation Guide and MTSS Academic supports.

The Deeper Learning team worked with 12 districts and 61 educators to support district plans and provide professional learning on Deeper Learning. The team hosted national speaker and author Ken Kay and a Deeper Learning PLN and Workshop. The team also participated in statewide Deeper Learning meetings and trainings and the UK Next Gen Leadership cohort, and they partnered with multiple districts to present at Kentucky Association of School Superintendents Conference.

Mr. Henry Astudillo, NKCES DEI Specialist, partnered with KDE, Engage 2 Learn, and 30 Boone County Schools educators on Equity Playbook coaching. He continued to engage in coaching meetings with those leaders and is beginning to work on the second cohort of the Equity Playbook Coaching with Kenton County Schools.

Mr. Joe Bertucci, NKCES Arts Education Manager, met with the Steering Committee of the Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education to plan the second year of our grant-funded project. Plans are underway to support 30 schools in 2023-24 with comprehensive arts planning, resources, and professional learning. Mr. Bertucci also continued to support schools currently implementing arts plans. He worked with Vicki Dansberry and our project evaluator to submit annual reports to the U.S. Department of Education for both our PDAE and AAE grants, and he led two regional PLN meetings focused on the arts and arts integration.

The Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention held a regional Youth Mental Health First Aid Training reaching 40 individuals covering 9 districts on November 8th. The team hosted two regional steering committee meetings and one regional institute general meeting reaching 28 individuals across 13 districts and attended several meetings and events with multiple community partners. The team collaborated on several regional projects including regional Youth Vaping (Nicotine & THC) Summit, distribution of promotional items and resources, and a letter of support to the governor and attorney general, in collaboration with all the NKY coalitions and various NKY regional partner organizations to appropriate funds from the JUUL settlement to prevention and intervention programming.

The CEO II Program partnership with KEDC, WKEC, and Bloomboard is gearing up to begin a new cohort of participants in January. The cooperatives held their monthly meetings with mentors for participants in the current cohort.

The CEO II Program partnership with KEDC, WKEC, and the Kentucky Reading Academies held three informational sessions for interested K-5 teachers. The plan is being developed and reviewed by EPSB with the first cohort beginning in February 2023.

Grant Consortium Update:

Collaborative Grants Newly Implementing: Trauma Informed School Services implementation has begun. Ms. Michelle Klein will be the Project Director and she is working with the NKCES team to hire the project staff.

Collaborative Grants Pending: We are awaiting word about our applications for: Full Service Community Schools, two applications (Covington/Newport); NKCES on behalf of Bellevue, Campbell County, Dayton, and Ludlow) and Project Prevent: Williamstown/Grant County.

Collaborative Grant Awards: NKCES on behalf of 19 districts received a \$13 million+ School Based Mental Health grant. American Rescue Plan Transition Grant in collaboration with NKCES Special Education was also awarded.

Grants available for application: Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities (concept papers due 1/26/2023) and School-Based Interventions to Promote Equity and Improve Health, Academic Achievement, and Well-Being of Students (applications due 2/13/2023).

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

What a great way to close out 2022! Our longest community partnership (Hickory Grove) provided over 40 families with Thanksgiving Dinners. Mix94.9 promoted our Pack The Pantry drive which helped us send over 40 food baskets home for winter break. Staff delivered these to all of the families. NKCES hosted our annual Holiday Shop for our students to shop for loved ones and take the gifts home. Verst Logistics graciously provided every one of our students gifts through an angel tree this year. Darling Ingredients donated funds to help us buy students gifts, and any other food needed, etc.

RSP hosted the first of two Regional Alternative Program Meetings on November 17th. The second one will be in March.

We are continuing to work on filling vacancies; we have had some new candidates applying and are conducting interviews. We filled two open positions, but also had two resignations.