

**Curriculum Department Report to the Board of Education**  
**Curriculum Department Highlights**  
**February 22, 2023**

**To:** Mr. Watts, Superintendent  
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board  
Members of the Board of Education

**Newport Curriculum Department Vision:**

We envision a day when **all leaders** of Newport Independent Schools exhibit high expectations and guarantee excellence of instruction, ensure equitable opportunities and leverage all high quality resources so that students, staff and leaders will **maximize** their fullest potential.

**Title I Update**

At this point the Kentucky Department of Education does not have a Title I, Part A allocation for the state or for districts, but provides a planning tool that will help arrive at an estimate of the allocation for the 2023-2024 school year. All numbers provided are tentative and are subject to change. Title I, Part A has a variable hold-harmless guarantee, which sets the minimum allocation for each district, as long as the district is eligible to receive funds from the same Part A funding sources as in the previous year and sufficient funds are appropriated by the U.S. Congress. Districts can estimate their minimum allocations for next school year by multiplying their hold harmless rate (determined by US Census data) and the current year's final allocation. Census Data indicates a 5% cut of funding could be possible with a decrease of 2.25% in the poverty percentage from the previous year. Hold Harmless amount for FY24 will be approximately \$1,188,477.90, down \$132,053.10 from FY23.

**NHS Senior Roundup - FAFSA, College Applications, Scholarship**

Seniors have participated in a new activity called Senior Roundup. This was designed to ensure students received help for FAFSA, college applications, scholarships, and introduced a component to support students in reviewing financial award letters from institutions in order to make the most informed decision on post secondary education. Seniors who have plans to enter the workforce are attending sessions to inform them of job opportunities and options in the NKY area. The next phase for these students is to work on resumes, job interview skills, and learn the basics of filling out job applications. Phase III of Senior Roundup will take place March 1-3, 2023 at NHS.

**New Teacher Induction Program**

Our new *Wildcat* educators will participate in their second session of *Effective Classroom Discourse* this month. According to Zaretta Hammond and John Hattie, conversations are one of the most powerful practices teachers can use in classrooms to promote higher achievement (Hammond, 2020; Hattie, 2012). Research has shown, students are more apt to be able to solve their own problems and generate their own questions when first given opportunities to talk and collaborate. Dialogue between and among peers is a powerful way to improve instruction and impact student achievement. It yields an effect size of 0.82 - over two years' worth of growth in one year's time if done effectively. (Fisher, Frey & Hattie, 2016). Next month, the *High Yield Instructional Strategy* focus is *Metacognition*.

**ACCESS Assessment for English Language Learners**

To meet Title III requirements, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states are mandated to identify and annually administer a standards-based English language proficiency test to all English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades K-12.

In order to comply with the requirement of an annual English Language Proficiency Assessment for ELLs, Kentucky provides the Access Assessment to all students identified as English language learners.

ACCESS is an English language assessment tied to the state's language proficiency standards with varying stages of second language acquisition. It contains social and academic language contexts. For Title I accountability, ACCESS for ELLs measures annual gains in English language proficiency.

Newport Independent Schools completed the Access test within the state provided window. All materials have been returned to the state for evaluation. ACCESS scores are reported to each district through the Kentucky accountability system in May.

Respectfully Submitted,

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