

NKCES Report – March 2023

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](#)

[BOONE COUNTY](#)

[BRACKEN COUNTY](#)

[CAMPBELL COUNTY](#)

[CARROLL COUNTY](#)

[COVINGTON INDEPENDENT](#)

[DAYTON INDEPENDENT](#)

[ERLANGER ELSMERE INDEPENDENT](#)

[FLEMING COUNTY](#)

[FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT](#)

[GRANT COUNTY](#)

[GREENUP COUNTY](#)

[KENTON COUNTY](#)

[LUDLOW INDEPENDENT](#)

[NEWPORT INDEPENDENT](#)

[OWEN COUNTY](#)

[PENDLETON COUNTY](#)

[SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT](#)

[WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT](#)

[WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT](#)

Lunch & Learn with Houchins Benefits, March 2: David Brooks, of Houchins Benefits, led a discussion around school safety with many school leaders in attendance. This important topic guided a very rich conversation amongst the very passionate leaders on the importance of staff and student safety.

NKCES Team Meeting, March 6: CAO Melody Stacy and 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. A specific highlight of our meeting is focusing on the professional learning standards by Learning Forward.

Deeper Learning Conference Preparation, March 14: Executive Director Amy Razor, along with Director of Deeper Learning, Dr. Robb Smith and PBL Works representative Ms. Charity Moran and Ms. Amanda Clark, met virtually to discuss their upcoming presentation at the Deeper Learning Conference at High Tech High. The conversation was rich and the team is excited to share how Kentucky is leading the way to Deeper Learning.

Superintendent Webcast, March 14: Executive Director Amy Razor, along with educational leaders across the state, participated in the monthly webcast delivered by Dr. Glass and his staff.

IDEA internal budget meeting, March 16: Executive Director Amy Razor and CAO Melody Stacy met with Regional Special Education Director Becky Nixon to discuss the IDEA budget and the plans for spending for 2023-24 fiscal year.

Regional School Program Participation Meeting, March 23: Executive Director Amy Razor and RSP Principal Stephanie Turner participated in a conversation with the superintendent committee regarding the participation structure of RSP and how to ensure it continues to meet the needs of students in the region as the program grows. The committee came to some solid recommendations that will be taken to the board for consideration in April.

Professional Learning Consortium Meeting, March 24: Executive Director Amy Razor participated in the meeting led by CAO Melody Stacy. The collaborative meeting is such a great resource to hear more about NKCES offerings as well as learn from one another.

Deeper Learning Conference, March 27-31: Executive Director Amy Razor was thrilled to co-lead two sessions at the Deeper Learning Conference this year. The packed sessions focused on Kentucky's journey to Deeper Learning and PBL. The energy in the room was contagious, which gives us such excitement for the incredible opportunities yet to come for our region!

NKCES is Growing! We have made some exciting hires this month. All of whom bring expertise that will have an incredible impact on the region. Please help us welcome Amy Gilkison, Assistant Director of Learning and Empowerment and Becky Guthrie, Purchase and Program Assistant.

Building Update: We have been told by boiler experts that we are in need of a new boiler. We are prioritizing this work for the summer. Additionally with the heavy rain already experienced this month, we have had some significant water enter the training rooms via the windows. We are in the process of obtaining bids for window replacements to determine the area in which we'll focus.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

March Professional Learning: NKCES supported 192 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, SEL, culture and climate, leadership, and special education, serving 2,385 educators.

PL Consortium: The 22.23 NKCES PL Consortium continued in March with a collaborative meeting. Topics included a NKCES IDEA Update ([NKCES Trainings](#)), a NKCES Learning & Empowerment [Update](#), and a March NKCES update. 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 March with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Title II ([Title II Timeline of Activities](#)), Title I [Title I Coordinator's Year at a Glance](#), 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 March with a collaborative meeting. Topics included DAC March Webcast. 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 March 16th. The NKCES DoSE Meeting was held on March 24th. Topics of discussion included Indicator 8 Parent Survey, Emergency/Probationary reporting requirements due in May, Alternate Assessment audits being conducted by Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL), etc. We wrapped up the Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) book study with the DoSEs.

The SERTAC team attended the National Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference in Louisville, KY on March 1-4th. Dr. Merissa Wadley served as the Local Arrangement Chair for the

2023 CEC Convention. She did a great job welcoming everyone to the Bluegrass State. Mrs. Misti Carr, who is the CAN Coordinator for KY CEC, connected with National CEC to welcome participants in the convention center. Mrs. Nixon participated in the Council of Administrators of Special Education annual membership meeting. She accepted an award on behalf of KYCASE for a seven percent growth in their membership.

Mrs. Becky Nixon led the Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (SERTAC) State Directors Meeting on March 14th. OSEEL was present and shared updates and information regarding the upcoming proposals.

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

The SERTAC team attended KYCASE's Spring Institute on March 23rd. The institute featured Anne Beninghof who shared what quality instruction looks like for students with disabilities, various planning tools, and coaching/feedback guidance for administrators who supervise co-teaching teams.

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the Kentucky Council of Administrators of Special Education (KYCASE) officer monthly board meeting on March 28th. The committee continued planning for the KYCASE New DoSE Institute and the KYCASE Summer Institute, which will take place July 16-18, 2023.

The SERTAC team attended their respective monthly state group meetings on March 28-29th. Mrs. Becky Nixon continues to lead the state Low Incidence Task Group.

The SERTAC team continued to provide coaching and support for teachers and administrators across the region.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

The Learning and Empowerment team worked with more than 420 educators and students and engaged in work with every NKCES district this month.

The CRRSA team partnered with 13 districts and served 227 educators and students in Northern Kentucky this month. The team led professional learning on Writing Across the Content Areas, Tier 1 Behavior Strategies and SEL in Instruction. The team provided MTSS coaching, behavior coaching, positive narration and precise directions coaching and provided support for an Early Childhood network. 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 7 districts this month to support district plans and provide professional learning. The team hosted Dr. Karin Hess and presented to the UK Next Gen Leadership cohort. The team attended The Deeper Learning Conference in San Diego and is excited to begin releasing information on the NKY Deeper Learning Summit happening June 14th and 15th in Covington.

Mr. Henry Astudillo, NKCES DEI Specialist, worked with 140 educators and students this month and partnered with three districts on Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Pedagogy and Equity Playbook

Coaching. He also partnered with the DEIB Team at KDE to present modules A1 Awareness and A2 Acknowledgement.

Mr. Joe Bertucci, Arts Education Manager of the Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education, is working with Artswave and The Carnegie to develop training for teaching artists, supporting more seamless and effective partnerships between schools and local arts organizations. Filming for the second season of our Arts In Mind video series wrapped in March; videos will be available in July. Mr. Bertucci provided guidance and consultation to the 30 schools working through our Comprehensive Arts Planning process; schools' action plans for 2023-24 are due March 31. Mr. Bertucci also led this month's Arts-Based Teaching PLN and Visual & Performing Arts PLN meetings. Along with Vicki Dansberry and other team members, he attended the U.S. Department of Education's Assistance For Arts Education Project Directors' Conference.

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention worked with multiple districts this month presenting and conducting focus groups on substance use trends and coping strategies, Parenting the Second Time Around, vaping trends and prevention, behavioral health prevention and Too Good for Drugs. They are planning the 2023 Youth Summit scheduled for October 24th at NKU. The theme of the summit will be suicide prevention.

Grant Consortium Update:

Collaborative Grants Newly Implementing: Trauma Informed School Services implementation has begun. Ms. Michelle Klein will be the Project Director and has completed and submitted several required documents to the funder. The School Based Health Services grant has hired its leader who starts April 3.

Grants available for application: The following opportunities were introduced in March: [Calming Spaces](#); [Crumb Rubber](#); [Interact for Health Equity and Student Voice grants](#); [Reading Diagnostic and Intervention](#); [Stronger Connections Grant](#); [STOP School Violence](#) ; [School Violence Prevention Program](#); [Vaping Disposal](#); [Innovative Approaches to Literacy](#)

Eligible districts met to discuss options for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant. Next meeting will be April 18. Additional support was provided as needed to districts applying for these funds.

Congratulations to the following district on successful 21st CCLC awards! Campbell County (2 awards); Covington (2 awards); Dayton; Erlanger-Elsmere; and Williamstown.

Please Note: April Grants Consortium meeting will be April 20 online, 10 AM

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

Mrs. Turner met with a group of participating Superintendents to review proposed adjustments to the RSP Participation Procedures. These recommendations will be presented to the board.

We are continuing to recruit for our current opening in our Challenge Program.

Administration is working on our testing schedule; we have shared a survey internally for proctor assistance, and will share externally with district partners if needed.

Our tentative date for our Awards and Promotion Ceremony is May 18th; more details to follow.