

## NKCES Report – May 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.

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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

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

**NKCES Team Meeting, May 1:** Chief Academic Officer Melody Stacy and Executive Director Amy Razor led the monthly team meeting, which focuses on the mission and core values of NKCES! The time spent together building our human capacity is incredible and a highlight each month as our team works together. A specific highlight of our meeting is focusing on the professional learning standards by Learning Forward as well as the CRRSA team leading us through Compassion and Resilience training. We wrapped up both of these training opportunities which have helped strengthen our product to best serve our region.

**Young Scholars Academy, Senior Celebration, May 1:** Executive Director Amy Razor and CAO Melody Stacy showed their support by attending the YSA Senior Celebration at NKU. The event was incredibly well done. We are so proud of these students and grateful for the partnership with NKU to bring this opportunity to students in Northern Kentucky.

**Sick Leave Policy Meeting, May 2:** At the April Board Meeting, Executive Director Amy Razor was asked to reach out to Mr. George Sparks, Barnes Denny, to confirm how they are auditing our sick leave accumulation and payout. It was determined that our practices matched and KTRS went as far as saying our policy language matched our practice. However, to ensure no further confusion, NKCES will update the policy language to be more explicit on how the policy is managed.

**Deeper Learning Data Collection for KDE, May 8:** Executive Director Amy Razor and NKCES leadership met to finalize the Deeper Learning data collection request from KDE. The NKCES team spent a considerable amount of time collecting the findings that support the work. This all comes from a change in the federal spending guidelines shared by KDE that changed after the Deeper Learning work had begun.

**NKCES Staff Appreciation Breakfast, May 9:** NKCES spent the week honoring educators in our region with daily social media giveaways. The participation was awesome! On Tuesday all NKCES staff were invited to join a team breakfast to honor our educators who give so much! Teacher Appreciation week is a special week for us!

**Executive Committee to Discuss NKCES Policy, May 15:** Each year NKCES receives updated laws as a result of the legislative session from our policy advisor at KSBA. Over the years as laws have changed and the Regional School Program and NKCES have evolved there will be clean up revisions to the

policy and procedures. The Executive Committee has offered their assistance in this endeavor by reviewing By Laws, Procurement, and Fiscal Management, and leading this process with the full NKCES Board. The NKCES Leadership is reviewing all policies and procedures to clean up.

**Regional School Programs (RSP) Graduation Ceremony, May 18:** Each year the Regional School Programs hold a graduation ceremony to recognize seniors' completion of the program. This year the Administration added grade level certificates as well as awards for behavior and leadership. It's always so heartwarming to fill the gym with the students' family and caregivers. The pride on their faces speaks volumes. We are grateful for the RSP school and the exceptional service they provide to students in our region.

**KAEC Meeting, May 22:** Although KDE canceled the monthly Education Cooperative meeting that typically takes place before the KAEC meeting, Executive Director Amy Razor hosted a zoom call with the other 7 regional education cooperative directors to stay informed of current events in the state throughout the cooperatives.

**Superintendent Webcast, May 22:** Executive Director Amy Razor, along with educational leaders across the state, participated in the monthly webcast delivered by Dr. Glass and his staff.

**NKCES is Growing!** We have made an exciting hire this month. NKCES is thrilled to welcome Candace Gibson as the SBMH Marketing/Social Media Coordinator. We look forward to the impact she will make for students in Northern Kentucky!

### **Facilities**

**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. Last month we mentioned the rain coming in via the training room windows; the custodial staff has since caulked around the windows to prevent further damage and we will still look to replace windows when the budget allows. After a recent storm our 2 cottages that house Deeper Learning, DEIB and CRRSA consultants had a considerable amount of shingles blown off. We reached out to our property insurer who agreed that both cottages and our stand-alone garage needed full roof replacements. This work is finishing up this month and is covered under insurance. We have also been working on brick tucking around the building to secure bricks that have become unstable due to the age of the building.

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

**April Professional Learning:** NKCES supported 79 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, SEL, culture and climate, leadership, and special education, serving 610 educators.

**Professional Learning (PL) Consortium:** The 22.23 NKCES PL Consortium ended in April and set dates for the 23-24 school year. These meetings are set to occur in-person from 10am-12pm on Aug 25, Sep 22, Oct 27, Nov 17, Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 22, Apr 26.

**Title I & Title II Meeting:** The 22.23 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium ended in April and set dates for the 23-24 school year. These meetings are set to occur in-person from 8am-930am on Aug 25, Sep 22, Oct 27, Nov 17, Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 22, Apr 26.

**District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting:** The 22.23 NKCES DAC Consortium ended in April and set dates for the 23-24 school year. These meetings are set to occur virtually from 10am-11am on Aug 15, Sep 19, Oct 24, Nov 14, Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 19, Apr 16.

**Professional Learning Networks (PLNs):** PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in collaborative environments focused on collective learning. Coming soon is our 23.24 NKCES PLN Dates.

### **Special Education Update:**

The NKCES DoSE Advisory Board met on May 17. The NKCES DoSE Meeting was held on May 26. Topics of discussion included Indicator 8 Parent Survey, Specially Designed Instruction, Writing supports, Indicator 11, 12, and 13 Reports, IC Ad Hoc Reports, etc. The DoSE read and discussed the book *Just Look Up* by Joe Beckman. Joe recorded a video message for our NKY DoSE that was shared. The DoSE also wrapped up their year-long book study on SDI. All resources from this book study were shared with them so they could use them with their administrators and staff.

Mrs. Becky Nixon led the NKCES Preschool Coordinator’s Meeting held on May 3. Topics of discussion included the Indicator 12 reporting, Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Process, IC Ad Hoc reports, etc.

Mrs. Becky Nixon led the Spring IDEA Advisory Board Meeting on May 4. A representative from each of the districts were invited to attend to give guidance on the NKCES SERTACs North Star priorities and activities for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Nixon also gave a year review on the SERTACs work during this current school year.

Mrs. Becky Nixon led the Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (SERTAC) State Directors Meeting on May 9. OSEEL was present and shared updates and information regarding IDEA Proposals, DEIB, Home/Hospital, OSEP Monitoring, Alternate Assessment 1% Justifications assessment results from districts who were over 1%, etc .

Mrs. Becky Nixon attended the Kentucky Council of Administrators of Special Education (KYCASE) officer monthly board meeting on May 10 and May 23. The committee continued planning for the KYCASE New DoSE Institute which is July 16 and the KYCASE Summer Institute, which is July 17-18, 2023. [Registration is out now.](#)

Mrs. Amanda Bell and Dr. Merissa Waddey participated in the statewide training from the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) on their new Foundations to Teach Foundational Reading curriculum May 22-24. This train-the-trainer opportunity will allow Mrs. Bell and Dr. Waddey to bring professional development and follow-up coaching and support over this evidence-based program to the NKCES region.

The SERTAC team attended their respective monthly state group meetings on May 23-24. Mrs. Becky Nixon continues to lead the state Low Incidence Task Group.

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

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 educators and students from all of our NKCES districts this month.

The CRRSA team partnered with 9 districts and served 118 educators and students in Northern Kentucky this month. The team led professional learning on the Kentucky Academic Standards, Tier 1 Behavior Supports, SEL in Academic Instruction and provided Behavior Supports. Both teams continued to participate in the monthly statewide CRRSA meetings and continued work on an SEL Implementation Guide and MTSS Academic supports.

The Deeper Learning team held a Year Two planning meeting for each district's Deeper Learning Lead to speak on the progress in Year One, answer financial questions, and update each district's plan for Year Two Deeper Learning implementation. Nine districts were in attendance. They have also been hard at work planning the Deeper Learning Summit, to be held on June 14-15. Marketing has included delivering books and marketing materials throughout the region, speaking to committees across the state, and reaching out to experts in the field of Deeper Learning for instructional videos to be shared during and after the event. The team visited classrooms, spoke with students and teachers, and videoed highlights of Deeper Learning happening in 15 of our districts across the region.

The DEIB Coordinator and the Deeper Learning team partnered with Beechwood Independent School District to present KDE and Kentucky Council for Post-Secondary Education's A1 Model for Cultural Competence to Beechwood staff. This module focuses on Awareness.

The SBMH & TISS grant work has been focused on conducting the first Steering Committee Meeting while also creating systems and processes for the implementation of both grants. Most of the recent work included attending mental health community partner meetings, participation in federal grant monitoring meetings/webinars, analysis of possible applicants along with conducting interviews for the remaining open positions, reviewing district Trauma Plans, meeting with districts to assist with decision making for their SBMH personnel, & collaborating with OVEC's SBMH Director to align grant processes for common districts.

On May 9, Mr. Joe Bertucci led training in the Visual & Performing Arts Standards for the New Teacher Cadre. Mr. Bertucci is finalizing plans for July's series of workshops supporting Art, Music, and Theatre teachers, and the schools participating in our Arts In Mind program. Support for both the first and second cohort of AIM schools is ongoing. Mr. Bertucci is also collaborating with Harris Media to edit the second season of our two video series, planned for release in August.

NKISP provided the Marijuana and YOU-th Training for Erlanger-Elsmere schools. They presented at the NKY Violence Prevention Taskforce on NKISP's strategies and ways to get involved and a Youth Mental Health First Aid class in Grant County. The team worked on submitting a proposal for Amplifying Youth Voice grant to Interact for Health to support NKY youth suicide prevention and mental health promotion efforts. NKISP also hosted its steering committee meeting and an institute meeting for all of our region, which featured a training from YouThrive on Prevention Professionals' Role in Addressing Community Trauma: Understanding the THRIVE Model.

The New Teacher Cadre engaged in professional learning on Curriculum, Programs and Standards. They received individualized sessions focused on their content's standards and engaged in deconstructing a standard in their content. The New Teacher Cadre and the Champions for the Profession Cadre continued to work on regional guidance to support sustaining and elevating the profession.

### **Grant Consortium Update:**

**Grants pending:** Interact for Health Youth Voice; Stronger Connections; Innovative Approaches to Literacy; School Violence Prevention Program; Healthy Meals for Small Rural Schools; Energy Improvements; Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Fund.

**Grants training:** A training day is being planned for July 21. Districts can send anyone who might be interested in improving skills for planning or applying for grants. Information will be available at the June 1 meeting.

Meetings for next year will remain at 10 AM, first Thursday of each month, rotating two months online, one month in person. The meeting in April will be adjusted to accommodate the holiday and Spring Breaks.

### **Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:**

RSP held our Awards and Promotion Ceremony on 5/18. Students' last day of school was 5/19. We are recruiting and conducting interviews to work on filling our open positions, and working on finalizing some summer building repairs and maintenance items.

RSP's first day back with students is August 16, 2023.