

NKCES Report – September 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

GRREC Portrait of Learner Training, August 30-31: Envision Training is a national group that leads districts through the process of creating/evaluating a portrait of a graduate.

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Greenup County District Visit, September 6: Executive Director Amy Razor had the opportunity to meet Superintendent Traysea Moresea to learn about the fantastic resources and opportunities the district has in place to support student learning and well-being.

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

NKCES Team Retreat, September 7-8: Although the retreat was mentioned in last month's report, it is worth additional thoughts for this month. We had such an incredible 2 days of learning. Day one was spent with Tamara Lindholm from INspired Leadership, where we reviewed the 7 levels of energy and she walked us through the importance of the awareness of not only our individual energy but the energy of those around us. On day two, CAO Melody Stacy led us through a refresh of our Working Geniuses as well as our finetune Professional Learning Standards.

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

Special Board Meeting, September 15: Following the September Board meeting and the dialogue with KASA Executive Director, Rhonda Caldwell, the Superintendent united as one, and wrote a letter to the KASA Coalition advocating for a fair minimum salary for educators. The Superintendents wanted to ensure their stance on the topic was documented, so a special board meeting was held to vote on the letter.

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Meeting with Steve Crawford, Assured Partners, September 15: Mr. Steve Crawford requested a meeting with Executive Director Amy Razor to keep informed on current events at NKCES and to ensure Assured Partners was kept in consideration for sponsorship opportunities.

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

YSA Advocacy in Frankfort, KY, September 21: Executive Director Amy Razor along with many other supporters of the YSA Program, met in Frankfort to support Dr. Webb and the other educators, parents, and students that support this program and its vitality. Given the significant cost increase by NKU, the program is asking the state for funding to keep the program

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

running. Currently, there are approximately 200 students from across Northern Kentucky who participate in YSA and will graduate from high school with an associate's degree. This program provides such an amazing opportunity for students that NKCES fully supports.

NKCES Synergy Meeting, September 22: Each month the leadership team meets to review the RACI Chart to ensure big rocks are planned out well in advance of their due dates, as well as hear from department leads on current projects. Carving out this time for leadership to collaborate across departments is so important and allows us to stretch and grow to new and exciting learning opportunities for educators.

CEO Apptegy Conference, September 24-27: Executive Director Amy Razor traveled with other NKCES Team members to the annual Apptegy conference. NKCES is a customer of Apptegy so continuing to foster the relationship with their team and hear how they continue to push boundaries to ensure customer satisfaction is fantastic! The conference was a remarkable experience.

2Revolutions Community of Practice w/OVEC: Executive Director, Amy Razor was invited to attend the 2Revolutions Community of Practice. 2Revolutions is an education design lab that builds capacity to transform toward more equitable, learner-centered schools and systems.

Facilities

Building Update: Both boilers have been replaced, there are a few small adjustments that need to be made followed by an inspection before they will be fully operational. We anticipate the inspection will take place in mid-October. Additionally, as our organization continues to grow we are finding it more difficult to host larger groups at NKCES as our space is limited.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

September Professional Learning: NKCES supported 142 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during September, serving 1270 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium: The 23.24 NKCES PL Consortium continued in September with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [PL Needs Assessment](#), [NKCES IDEA/SERTAC Update](#), [NKCES Learning & Empowerment Update](#), and planning for the monthly district share-outs. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 23.24 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium continued in September with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Carryover Limitation Waiver, Comparability Report (due Nov 1), Focus for the Year: Funding allocation and spending within Title I areas, and assessments. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 23.24 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in September with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [KSA Released Items](#), the Senior ACT, K Screen Updates, Data Quality Control Process, AP Fees, and the [2023 Scott Trimble Workshop](#). 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. [23-24 NKCES PLN Dates](#).

NKCES is honored to offer a variety of professional learning opportunities. All of them can be found in our [Professional Learning Catalog](#).

Special Education Update:

First Director of Special Education Advisory Board Meeting occurred Tuesday, September 12th. This meeting allowed for the advisory board to provide input and feedback on the first regional DoSE meeting for the year.

Directors of Special Education meeting occurred Friday, August 25th. The DoSE received a summary of their feedback from the district needs assessment regarding the support needed in their districts. They also held a facilitated discussion on the book, *How to Work with Almost Anyone* by Michael Bungay Stanier, to discuss the importance of relationships.

Mrs. Jacki Alexander has been working diligently on 2 incredible transition opportunities.

The first will occur on October 23rd geared towards families on how to support their children and navigate guardianship. The second will occur on October 30 that is specifically for students! There will be plenty of employment, vendors, a motivational speaker, and prizes.

Mrs. Merissa Waddy and Mrs. Misti Carr held a Professional Learning on Alternatives to Suspension on 9/14. This training provided a wealth of insight to different ways to support students prior to considering removal.

The IDEA Team held an Open House on 9/19 at NKCES. This event was held to showcase the different work and supports we can offer teachers in the region. The team was able to meet with all attendees and give away free resources for their classrooms.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE): NKCES received the continuation award for our Assistance for Arts Education Grant; Year 3 of this project begins October 1. Our NKIAE Steering Committee attended a retreat at Baker-Hunt Art & Cultural Center to review and plan progress on our arts programming. The Arts-Based Teaching PLN met, supporting 17 teachers from 9 districts working to integrate the arts with other subject areas. In addition, the Visual & Performing Arts PLN met, supporting 32 art, music, and theater teachers from 15 districts; this PLN is focused on Universal Design for Learning and the Arts Standards. Mr. Joe Bertucci met with representatives of Mindful Music Moments to discuss continued support for the region, and collaborated with Harris Media to complete the second season of our two video series: Arts Express and Arts In Mind. Schools currently participating in the AIM program continue to receive materials requested on their Comprehensive Arts Plans.

Kentucky Center for Mandarin Language and Culture (KCMLC): KCMLC received funding to implement new programs in 2023-2024. Planning for Spring Festival events is underway. Mr. Yang Yang, of Second

Street School in Frankfort, KY received the Guest Teacher of the Year Award from the KY Association of Chinese Language Teachers during the KWLA Conference on September 30. Six teachers and the educational liaison are preparing to attend November's ACTFL Conference in Chicago.

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP): NKISP Presented on "Best Practices in Youth E-Cigarette & Cannabis Use Prevention" at the KY Prevention Network Conference. They held a regional Too Good for Drugs/Violence Overview Webinar on 9/12 in which 12 school personnel attended from the region. NKISP participated in Campbell County Drug-Free Alliance's Annual Retreat on 9/13. September's Institute training focused on Authentic Youth Engagement and where 20 school/community partners were in attendance. Plans are underway for the NKY Youth Summit, on 10/24 at NKU. 22 schools across the region have registered over 200 middle and high school students.

School Based Mental Health (SBMH) and Trauma Informed Services in Schools (TISS): SBMH & TISS grant work has been focused on assisting districts with financial processes for both grants while also providing additional guidance for implementation of the grant activities. Most of the recent work included participation in federal grant monitoring meetings/webinars, analysis of possible applicants for the remaining open positions, meeting with districts to assist with decision making for their SBMH personnel/interns, meeting with community mental health organization for future collaborations, meeting with NKU to begin building partnerships for interns, planning future mental health professional learning opportunities, collaborating with NKISP staff to plan the upcoming Youth Mental Health Summit, & conducting monthly grant committee meetings to provide guidance to district for implementation.

Deeper Learning: Deeper Learning team served in 5 districts working one-on-one with teachers and small groups through collaboration and modeling. The team has worked to provide professional learning opportunities through the Deeper Learning Cohorts that kicked off at the beginning of September and continue into the beginning of the new year.

CRRSA: CRRSA team participated in the statewide CRSSA retreat alongside regional cooperatives. Both LAS and SEL teams formed subgroups in collaboration with all cooperative teams to build tools for instructional practices. This work will be ongoing throughout the year. This month the CRSSA team served in 12 districts reaching almost 600 teachers.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grants available

- [Link to Perkins Innovation and Modernization:](#) due 10/13
 - \$1.1 million to \$1.475 million X 5 years to improve postsecondary and career success.
- [FY24 Math Achievement Fund Mini Grant Request for Application:](#) due 11/18
 - \$40,000 over 1 year (15 months) to provide math resources.
- [RFA FY24 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant:](#) due 11/21
 - \$100,000 or \$150,000 X 5 years for out-of-school time programming.
- [Andrew Lloyd Webber Classroom Resources grant:](#) due 10/6
 - Up to \$50,000 for improvements to theater programming.

Collaborative Grants Pending:

- Innovative Approaches to Literacy: Neither application was funded. Vicki has summarized comments for reference for the next opportunity to apply.
- Action for Healthy Kids Meals (rural): Grant County received \$139,770. Congratulations!
- STOP Act: pending announcement for Bellevue.
- Full Service Community Schools: announced by December 31.

Grants Tips/News

- Carrie Wheeler of NKCES and the Kentucky Center for Mandarin Language and Culture described her program's offerings: teachers paid by their Chinese universities; presentations on Chinese culture; events highlighting Chinese foods, music, etc; martial arts demonstrations; and more. Contact Carrie.wheeler@nkces.org for more information.
- [GPA Conference](#). Vicki will not be able to attend this event after all but recommends it highly to members.
- Boone County Alliance, a Drug Free Communities Support program substance abuse prevention coalition, was awarded a Strategic Prevention Framework grant in collaboration with their fiscal agent, Mental Health America. All schools located in Boone County can benefit from this project. Contact Jennifer Welch, jwelch@mhankyswoh.org for more info.
- Vicki's schedule update: Vicki announced that she will be having surgery on September 29 and will be out of the office for all of October and potentially a couple weeks in November. In her absence, contact the program coordinator of any existing grant of concern or Michelle.klein@nkces.org for support.
- The October meeting is canceled. Next meeting is November 2 on zoom. [Link to Grants Consortium Meetings](#)

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

- Our partnership with NKU continues for the 23-24 school year. They started at RSP on September 15th. They will be at the school every Friday this semester, culminating by hosting a Fall Festival in early November.
- Leadership is working on recruiting to fill our open teaching position.
- Boiler Repair/Replacements were completed.
- RSP Advisory Board met on 9/26/23, and RSP Standing Committee met on 10/10/23.