

NKCES Report – October 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

Power of Pause Design Meeting, October 3: Executive Director Amy Razor met with Candace Gibson to plan and design a blog to share strategies on mindfulness.

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Finance Meeting, October 5: Each month Executive Director Amy Razor meets with Business Manager, Angie Perkins, to keep abreast of finances and planning for future expenses.

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

Aurora Institute, October 15-18: The mission of the Aurora Institute is to drive the transformation of education systems and accelerate the advancement of breakthrough policies and practices to ensure high-quality learning for all. Attending this institute with team members and other Kentucky colleagues was inspiring and provided continued motivation for our work at NKCES.

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

NKCES Synergy Meeting, October 23: Each month the NKCES team pauses and comes together to engage in learning and meaningful conversations. This month, Executive Director Amy Razor led us through our mindful moment by revisiting the foundational elements of what mindfulness is, Mrs. Razor will continue to lead us through a series of INspired Leadership lessons over the next several meetings.

GRANT COUNTY

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LEWIS COUNTY

KDE Statewide Call, October 23: Executive Director Amy Razor along with the other 7 regional education cooperatives' leaders participated in the monthly virtual meeting with KDE to hear from them on current initiatives and discuss any pressing items that are beneficial for the group to hear.

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

KAEC Monthly Call, October 26: Following the KDE monthly Education Cooperative, Executive Director Amy Razor hosted a zoom call with the other 7 regional education cooperative directors to debrief from the KDE and stay informed of current events in the state throughout the cooperatives.

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

NKCES Professional Learning Consortium, October 27: : 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.

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

NKCES Synergy Meeting, October 30: 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.

United We Learn Council, November 2-3: Executive Director Razor was invited to serve on a panel to provide feedback to working committees on United We Learn Council. This work is driving the next steps for statewide in key areas initially identified by stakeholders.

Facilities:

Building Update: Both boilers have been replaced, the small adjustments have been made, we are awaiting final inspection which we anticipate to take place before end of day November 3. Additionally, as our organization continues to grow we are finding it more difficult to host larger groups at NKCES as our space is limited.

As part of the Art's Integration Grant, an outdoor learning space will be designed to meet the needs of learners. The space will be located outside in the space between the modulars and the synergy room exterior wall. We are pleased to share that we have selected TLC Construction through the bidding process to complete the work. We will share updates as the work progresses.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

October Professional Learning: NKCES supported 115 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during October, serving 1,594 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium: The 23.24 NKCES PL Consortium continued in October with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [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 October with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [Title I Coordinators Responsibilities](#) for November, [ESEA Conference Opportunity](#) (February 7-10), and [KY Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report](#) (2022-2023). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 23.24 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in October with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Alternate Assessment, AKSA Overview, & Attainment Task Training, AKSA Materials, Employability Skills Attainment Records (ESAR), ACT Trainings, ACCESS Ordering, [2023 Scott Trimble Workshop](#), and State Accountability Release & New Change Element. 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:

Ms. Brittney Howell, Regional Director of Special Education, was invited to Frankfort to review future behavior guidance. The guidance is centered around removal for students with disabilities. A team of professionals from around the state have developed this guidance to provide clarity and important information around removals.

Mrs. Kim Snowball and Mrs. Amanda Bell held the October EEMC session. A quote from this last session speaks volumes. ***"I am absolutely loving this training series. I am learning so much, even after 20 plus years of preschool teaching experience! I'm learning so much about how to teach the WHY."***

Directors of Special Education meeting occurred Friday, October 27th. The DoSE had a presentation for NKU Project Search through a partnership with the Campbell County Schools and discussed the NKCES North Star Priorities Report.

The IDEA Team held two transition fairs to support our region's students and families. Transition Fairs were a huge success.

- The first shout out goes to the teachers!! 33% of our participants were teachers and some of them came to both fairs. Passion and dedication – we love our teachers!
- Before the fair only 44.8% of students reported having some idea of a solid plan after high school. After the fair that jumped to 75.9% of students reporting some idea to solid plan after high school. An increase of 31.1%
- Before the fair 80% of families reported having no plans or a vague idea of what their child would do after high school. After the fair that dropped to 0%. After the fair 40% of families reported having a solid plan for after graduation.

Email from a parent from the 1st Transition Fair.

Good afternoon,

I hope this is a good email to send this to, I wanted to send a thank you for the wonderful fair on Monday. It truly gave me information that I have been searching for as well as resources I didn't know existed. The presentation from KY-SPIN was outstanding. I felt like the evening gave me a light in the middle of a very long tunnel.

Thank you!

Dr. Merissa Wadley and Mrs. Misti Carr held a Professional Learning on Alternatives to Suspension on October 17th. They customized this training to meet the needs of one of our NKCES districts' building administrators, including analysis of building and district-level discipline data and alignment with updated discipline policies.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE): Thirty-two new videos were published on our website to support arts education in our region and beyond. Mr. Joe Bertucci met with representatives of three districts to pilot a new model of our Arts In Mind program, while continuing to support the 28 schools currently participating. Mr. Bertucci led a professional learning cadre in Ft. Thomas, and met with several districts and community partners to develop opportunities for our region's arts educators.

Kentucky Center for Mandarin Language and Culture (KCMLC): KCMLC provided a professional learning session with FCPS world language specialist Dr. Laura Youngworth on Oct. 21. The topic was "The Art of Lesson Designing: Working Smarter, Not Harder."

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP): NKISP provided Red Ribbon Week resources (bookmarks, bracelets, pop sockets, and pencils) to 15,178 students at 32 different district schools. They also distributed Red Ribbon Week morning announcements, PSAs and questions. The team

held the second annual NKY youth summit at NKU on 10/24 and reached over 200 middle/high school students from 21 schools around the topic of suicide prevention and empowering young mental health champions, and launched their NKY youth advisory board at the youth summit. NKISP are still taking applications.

School Based Mental Health (SBMH) and Trauma Informed Services in Schools (TISS): The 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 conducting interviews of possible applicants for the remaining open positions, meeting with districts to assist with providing feedback or guidance for submission of their Quarter 1 Invoices for reimbursement, meeting with community mental health organizations for future collaborations, planning future mental health professional learning opportunities, collaborating with SPF Grant staff to conduct the Youth Mental Health Summit, assisting with the Defiant Student training, participation in professional learning opportunities to gain knowledge for grant activities, & conducting monthly grant committee meetings to provide guidance to district for implementation.

Deeper Learning: Deeper Learning directors have been meeting with Deeper Learning district leads to discuss Year 2 plans, data collection and budgets. The Deeper Learning fall cohort, *What Schools Could Be* concluded and covered topics from student voice, planning, to assessments. We had participants from 4 different districts attend this cohort.

CRSSA: The CRSSA team worked with Larry Thompson to host the Defiant Students training. Over 125 educators participated in the 2-day training reaching across 16 districts. The CRSSA team met with the statewide CRSSA team to continue work on the online academic resource that will be launching later this year.

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.
- 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.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

- RSP is gearing up for our Fall and Winter events at RSP. We are looking for a new partnership to assist with our Holiday Food Drive.
- NKCES has started a new program, adopting RSP classrooms. Some visits/activities have started to occur, and the students and staff are enjoying the opportunities!
- NKU will be hosting a Fall Festival on November 3rd.
- Leadership is continuing to work on recruiting to fill our open teaching position.
- Boiler Repair/Replacements were inspected in late October.
- RSP Standing Committee will meet again in December.